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Fulfilled Prophecies that Prove The Bible

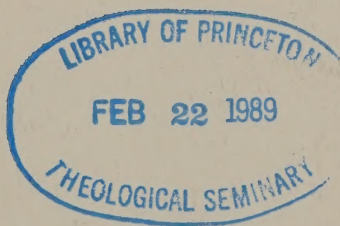


By
George T. B. Davis

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Fulfilled Prophecies That Prove the Bible

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FOREWORD

The accurate forecasting of future events is one of the strongest evidences of the existence of God, and of the authority and integrity of the Word of God. To predict an event centuries before it comes to pass, and then to see a photograph of its fulfillment precisely as foretold, is concrete visible proof of divine power that cannot be controverted.

God Himself uses this testimony to reveal to men the certainty of His power and might. In Isaiah 41, verses 22 to 29 the Lord, speaking through the prophet, cites the prediction of future events as evidence of His supreme power. In irony He calls upon the heathen gods to show forth their power by forecasting the future.

The Lord Jesus Christ also used a declaration of future events to confirm the

faith of His followers. On the night of His betrayal He said to His disciples: "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe."

Both the Old and New Testaments abound with predictions of the future that were fulfilled hundreds and thousands of years later with minute and mathematical accuracy. This little book gives some of these predictions, traces their gradual fulfillment through the intervening centuries, and shows their condition at the present moment *by means of actual photographs of the scenes and places mentioned in the prophecy.*

Such evidence is incontrovertible. It confounds agnosticism and atheism, and proves beyond peradventure of a doubt the inspiration of the Bible. It is visible and tangible proof that fully satisfies the honest seeker after truth.

God grant that many of those who read this book not only may be led to acknowledge the authority and integrity of the

Word of God, and to realize the fact of a Supreme Being; but may be brought to a definite acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, Lord, and King.

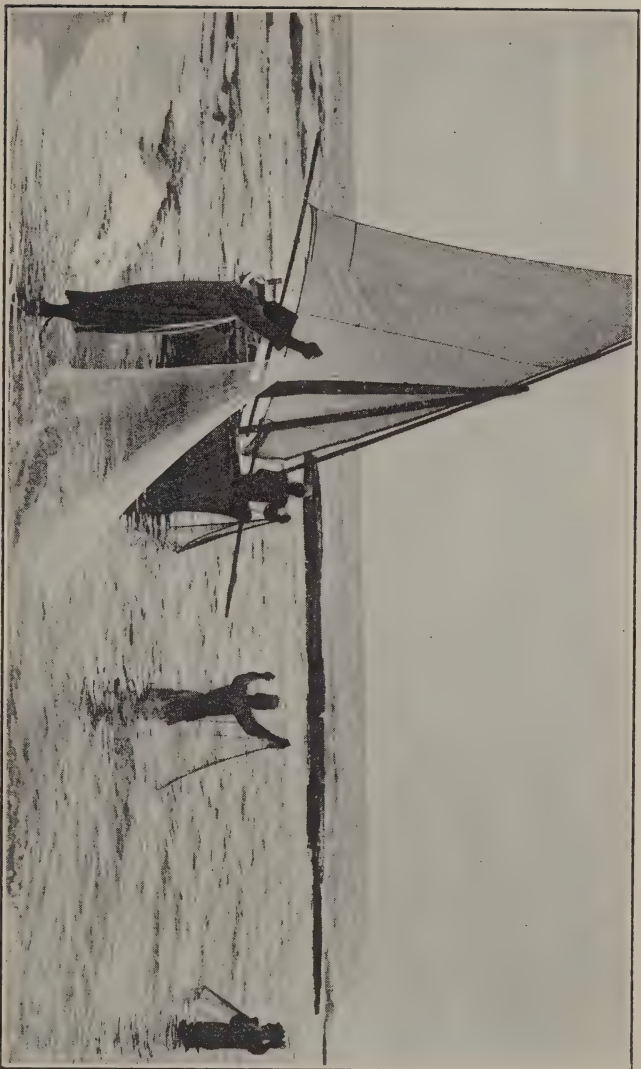
Finally, let me express my appreciation of the coöperation rendered by Mr. Ernest F. Beaumont in gathering the material for this book. Mr. Beaumont has lived in Jerusalem for 35 years, and has been associated with archæological work in both Palestine and Egypt. He accompanied me most of the time during my stay in Palestine, and took quite a number of the photographs which are reproduced in the following pages. He also drew the map of Jerusalem showing how the city has been built up during the past half-century in strict accordance with the prophecy of Jeremiah uttered more than 2,000 years ago.

I. TYRE, THE STRONG CITY, WHICH
PERISHED AS PREDICTED

The Prophecy

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus . . . and they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea. . . . And they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water. . . . Thou shalt be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God.” Ezekiel 26:3,4,5,12,14.

Tyre was one of the great cities of the ancient world. Its inhabitants, the Phœnicians, were the foremost mariners, mer-



TYRE: "A PLACE FOR THE SPREADING OF NETS."

Syrian fishermen hauling in their nets on the probable site of ancient Tyre, which perished as predicted by the prophet.

chants, and explorers of antiquity. Its ships traded with the known world. The city was strongly fortified and occupied a strategic position on the western shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Tyre was a famous and flourishing city in the days when Joshua led the Israelites in the invasion of Palestine. He speaks of "the strong city Tyre." Several centuries later Hiram, King of Tyre, sent King Solomon abundant supplies of cedar and fir trees for building the Temple in Jerusalem.

Centuries later still, in the days of the prophet Ezekiel, God pronounced judgment against the city because of its sins. Ezekiel predicted that the walls and towers of the metropolis would be thrown down; but what is even more striking, that the very dust would "be scraped from the city." The forecast reads: "They shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water." This was a most unusual prophecy and, humanly speaking, there seemed no likelihood that it would ever be fulfilled.

After a siege of thirteen years Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, captured Tyre, and broke down her walls and towers. But no spoils of consequence fell into his hands at the end of his long continued siege. The rulers of Tyre had transported their riches to an island about half a mile out in the sea. Nebuchadnezzar simply destroyed the city and left it in ruins. A part of the prediction had been brought to pass, but not all. The stones and dust and timber had not been cast "in the midst of the water." It seemed utterly incredible that anyone would take the rubbish of a ruined city, and cast it into the midst of the sea.

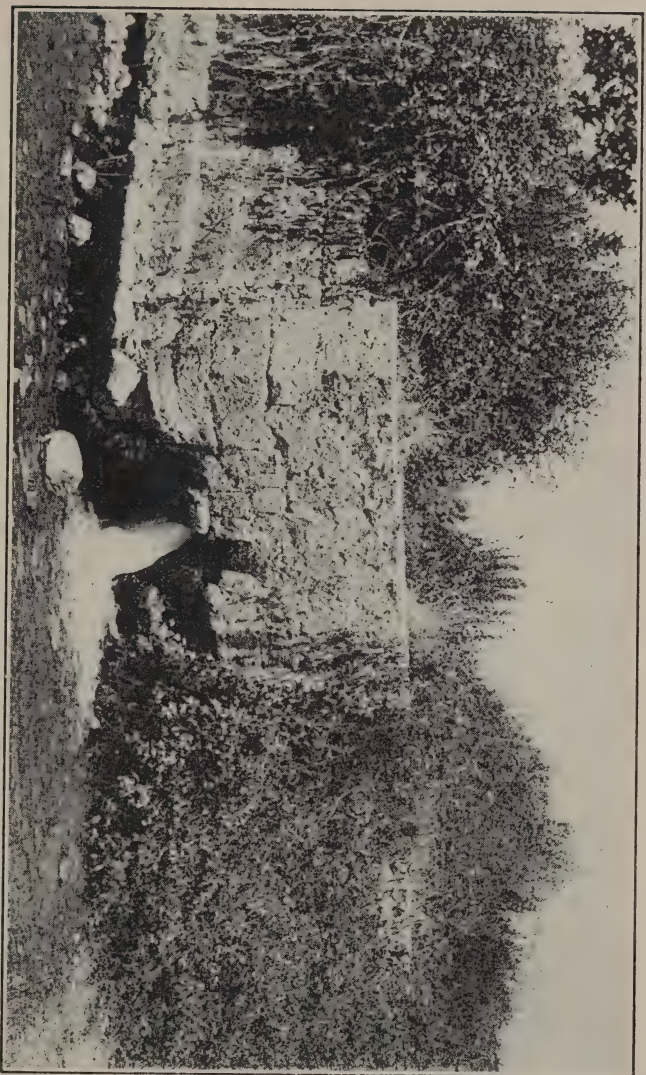
Two hundred and forty years rolled by, and still there was no sign of the complete fulfillment of the prophecy. Then Alexander the Great, with his swift legions, swept eastward in his all-conquering career. He called upon the island city of Tyre to open its gates to him. They refused his request. They felt secure in their island citadel.

But Alexander quickly devised a plan of

attack. He determined to build a causeway from the mainland to the island. He took the "stones" and "timber" and "dust" of the ruined city, cast them "in the midst of the water," and then marched his legions over the solid roadway and captured the island city. Thus, in due time, God's Word was fulfilled in minute mathematical detail.

Today, after a period of more than 2,500 years, another part of the prophecy has been fulfilled with the same detailed accuracy. The prediction reads: "It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea . . . and thou shalt be built no more." The island Tyre—which is now a peninsula made by the drifting of sand against the causeway—is a town of no importance with a few thousand inhabitants; but every vestige of the great city of Tyre on the mainland, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and cast into the sea by Alexander, has disappeared.

Strabo said that Tyre was located about three miles south of the causeway near the springs of Ras-el-Ain. These remarkable



ONE OF THE SPRINGS OF RAS-EL-AIN.

These copious springs probably afforded an abundant water supply to ancient Tyre. They have a combined flow of more than 10,000,000 gallons daily.

springs still send forth streams of clear, cold water. A friend who was with me when we visited the springs, and who has resided in Palestine for more than thirty years, estimated the combined output of the springs at more than 10,000,000 gallons daily. This would provide an ample water supply for a great city like ancient Tyre. The springs are only a short distance from the seashore, and may have been actually within the walls of the once maritime metropolis.

In spite of the natural advantage of the abundant water supply, and the fertile plains stretching away to the mountains, Tyre has never been rebuilt. Today the seacoast for miles on either side of the springs is, precisely as predicted, "a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea." The photographed fishermen are casting their "net in the midst of the sea" exactly as was foretold by the Prophet Ezekiel more than 25 centuries previous.

Here then is fulfillment of prophecy so unique, so striking, so precise in minute detail, coming to pass thousands of years

after the forecast with such hairsbreadth accuracy, that only one conclusion is possible—the Bible must be the inspired, supernatural Word of God.

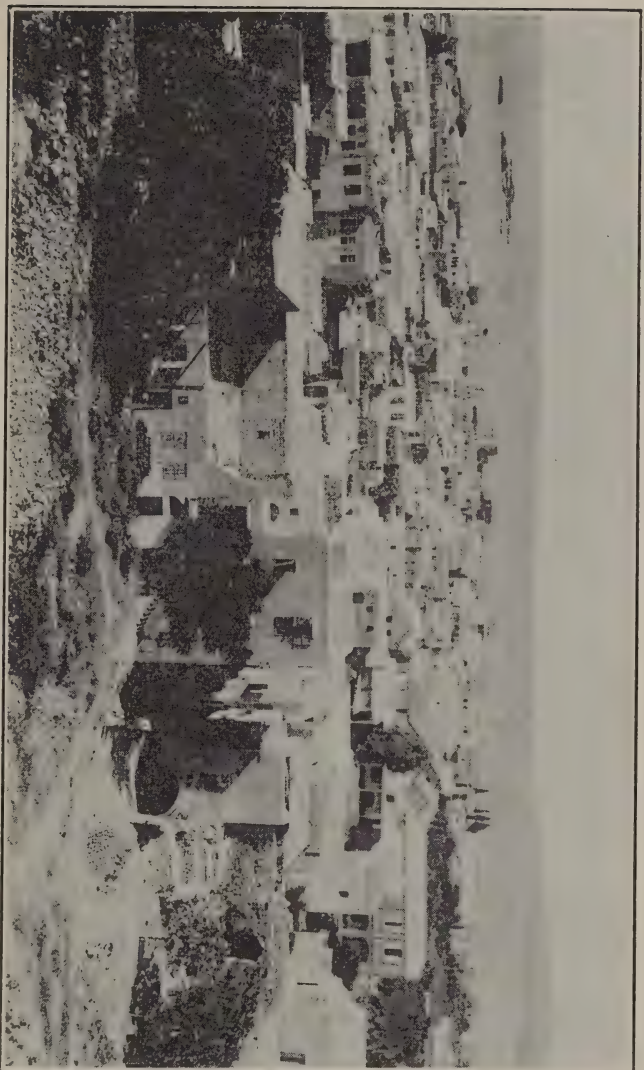
The next prophecy about Sidon, some twenty miles northward on the Syrian coast, is in striking contrast with that regarding Tyre.

II. SIDON, THE ANCIENT, WHICH STILL
STANDS, THOUGH SCARRED BY WARS
AS FORETOLD

The Prophecy

*“Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon.
. . . For I will send into her pestilence,
and blood into her streets; and the wounded
shall be judged in the midst of her by the
sword upon her on every side; and they
shall know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel
28:22,23.*

The prophecy against Sidon is very different from that concerning Tyre. It was foretold that Tyre would be destroyed, made bare like a rock, and built no more. The prediction against Sidon is that blood will be in her streets, her wounded shall fall in the midst of her, and the sword is to be



SIDON, ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN THE WORLD.

Sidon has not perished like her daughter Tyre, but has been the scene of war and bloodshed as predicted by the prophet.

on her on every side. But there is no doom of extinction pronounced against her as was the case with Tyre.

Today Sidon is a flourishing city of some twenty thousand population. It still stands, while every trace of Tyre has vanished. But though the prediction spared Sidon, yet she was to suffer greatly, and the long and checkered history of the city abundantly confirms the prophesied judgments that were to come upon her.

In 35 B. C. the city was under the dominion of Persia. It revolted and the Persian army besieged it. "When all hope of saving their city was gone, 40,000 citizens chose to die rather than submit to Persian vengeance. They shut themselves up with their wives and children, set fire to their dwellings, and perished amid the flames."

But the doom of suffering did not end with this tragic event. It has continued to rest upon it throughout the centuries. In the days of the crusades it was taken and retaken again and again by opposing forces. Three times it was captured by the Cru-

saders, and three times it fell before the Moslem armies. The sword was indeed "upon her on every side."

Even in modern times tribulation has continued to be meted out to the city. It has been the scene of conflicts between the Druses and the Turks, and between the Turks and the French. In 1840 Sidon "was bombarded by the combined fleets of England, France, and Turkey."

Thus in the case of Sidon as in that of Tyre, we see how the prediction has been literally and precisely fulfilled during the long centuries that have intervened since the forecast was uttered. Not once but many times blood has been in her streets, her wounded have fallen in the midst of her, and the sword has been "upon her on every side."

No human eye could have looked down the long corridor of time, and foretold the events of these sister cities with such absolute precision. No human mind could have foretold 2,500 years ago that Tyre would be extinct, and Sidon would continue, but suf-

fer tribulation during the succeeding centuries; instead of Tyre enduring sorrows, and Sidon being desolate and deserted during this long period. Here is indisputable proof of the supernatural character of the Word of God. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

III. THE DOOM OF THREE HIGHLY-FAVORED CITIES

The Prophecy

“Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! . . . And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.” Matthew 11:20,21,23.

A large portion of Christ's public ministry took place in these three cities of Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida. Two of the three, Capernaum and Bethsaida,

were on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, and Chorazin was not far distant.

The people of these cities were highly favored in witnessing many of our Lord's miracles, and in listening to His wondrous words. In this district He "performed many mighty works," and "spake many things." Here He chose Peter, James and John, the three disciples who might be termed the inner circle of the twelve.

Capernaum was not only the scene of many miracles, but it was the home of Christ. In the fourth chapter of Matthew we read, "And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the seacoast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, . . . The people which sat in darkness saw great light." But in spite of the fact that the people saw the "great light" of the Lord Jesus Christ's words and works, yet they failed to repent, and to believe on Him as the Son of God.

Finally, in sorrow because of their hard



"AND THOU, CAPERNAUM, WHICH ART EXALTED
UNTO HEAVEN, SHALT BE BROUGHT DOWN TO
HELL."

Ruins of the once beautiful city of Capernaum, the home of our
Lord, where many of His miracles were performed.

and impenitent hearts, our Lord pronounced the woes upon these three cities "wherein most of His mighty works were done." It should be carefully noted that when He gave judgment upon these cities it seemed most improbable that they would perish.

They enjoyed great natural advantages. In describing the beauty of the climate and the fertility of the land, Dean Farrar says: "There were no such trees, and no such gardens anywhere in Palestine as in the land of Gennesarett. Josephus, in a passage of glowing admiration, after describing the sweetness of its waters, and the delicate temperature of its air, its palms, and vines, and oranges, and figs, and almonds, and pomegranates, and warm springs, says that the seasons seemed to compete for the honor of its possession, and Nature to have created it as a kind of emulative challenge, wherein she had gathered all the elements of her strength. 'The cities,' says Josephus, 'lie very thick; and the very numerous villages are so full of people, because of the fertility



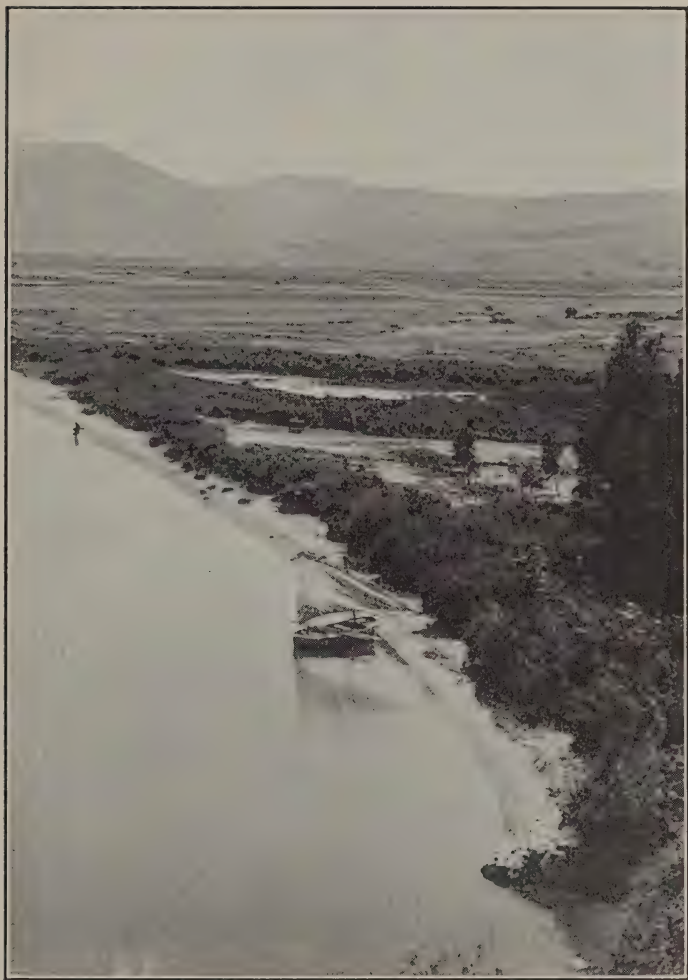
“WOE UNTO THEE, CHORAZIN!”

Ruins of Chorazin, one of the three cities upon which Christ pronounced judgment.

of the land, that the very smallest of them contains about 15,000 inhabitants.' No less than four roads communicated with the shores of the lake. Through this district passed the great caravans on their way from Egypt to Damascus."

But all these luxuriant endowments of Nature could not keep back the woes pronounced by Christ upon Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida. Today Capernaum and Chorazin are only collections of ruins, many of the broken fragments having been embedded in the ground for centuries; while Bethsaida has disappeared so completely that the exact site of the once-flourishing city is uncertain.

Now notice another very significant fact. On the shore of the sea of Galilee stood another city called Tiberias. It is quite possible that Christ visited this city, although we have no record of His having done so. It may be that many of its people believed on Him. At any rate the striking thing is this: no woe was pronounced against Tiberias, and it is standing today, after



"WOE UNTO THEE, BETHSAIDA!"

The probable site of Bethsaida against which the Lord pronounced a woe and which has entirely disappeared.

nearly 2,000 years! Tiberias was a new city at the time of our Lord's earthly ministry. Dr. William M. Thomson in "The Land and the Book," says the city was "built about ten years before the beginning of His (Christ's) public ministry by Herod Antipas, and named by him Tiberias, after the Emperor. Josephus found it an important place, and scarcely another town in Galilee is so often mentioned by him. Almost every other city of that province was destroyed by Vespasian and Titus, but this was spared, and rewarded for its adherence to the Romans by being made the capital."

Here then is the sum of it all—woes uttered against three cities, and they have utterly perished; no judgment pronounced against one city, and it is today the foremost place on the shores of beautiful Lake Galilee.

"Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven."



TIBERIAS ON LAKE GALILEE.

The city of Tiberias against which our Lord uttered no woe, and which is still standing and flourishing on the sea of Galilee.

IV. HEAVY JUDGMENTS FORECASTED FOR SAMARIA

The Prophecy

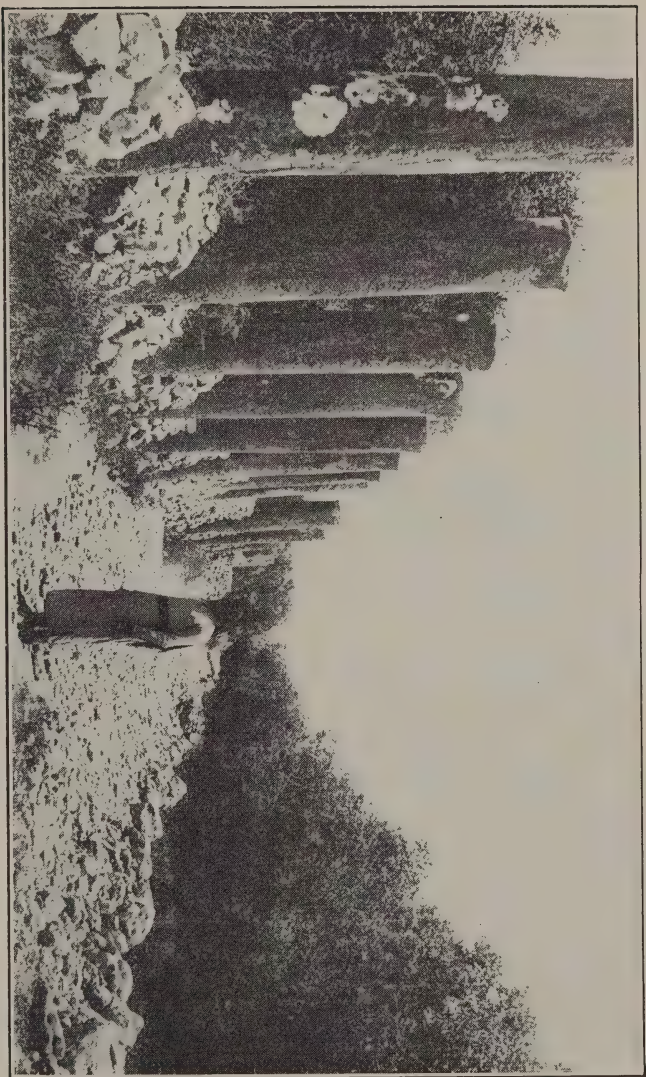
“Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof.” Micah 1:6.

Samaria was built by Omri, a wicked King of the ten tribes of Israel. He was succeeded by his son Ahab, who “reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.” Ahab exceeded even his father in wickedness. We are told in I Kings 16:30 that he “did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him.”

Ahab's wife was the infamous Jezebel, the daughter of the King of Sidon. She

Pillars and stones on the hill of Samaria on which once stood the city of Samaria. Today the hill is covered with fields and gardens as foretold by the prophet.

THE DOOM OF DESOLATION ON SAMARIA.



killed the prophets of the Lord, and compelled the people of Israel to worship Baal, the god of the Sidonians. Because of the multiplied sins of the rulers and people of Samaria the prophet Micah pronounced the above judgment against the city.

The predicted doom finally fell. In 1697 Henry Maundrell visited the site of the former capital city, and wrote: "Sebaste is the ancient Samaria, the imperial city of the ten tribes after their revolt from the House of David. It is situated upon a long mound of an oval figure. This great city is now wholly converted into gardens, and all the tokens that remain to testify that there has ever been such a place, are only, on the north side, a large square piazza encompassed with pillars, and on the east some poor remains of a great church."

Van de Velde, who visited Sebaste or Samaria, in the last century, in his book on "Syria and Palestine," says: "Samaria, a heap of stones! Her foundations discovered, her streets ploughed up, and covered with corn-fields and olive gardens. Sa-

maria has been destroyed; her rubbish has been thrown down into the valley; her foundation stones lie scattered about on the slope of the hill."

Here is prophecy fulfilled with a minute accuracy that is nothing less than supernatural! Samaria has indeed become "as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard." The stones of the city have literally been poured down "into the valley," and her "foundations" discovered. Only an omniscient eye could have foreseen this, and an omnipotent tongue, speaking through the prophet, could have foretold the event more than 2,000 years before it occurred.

V. MIGHTY ASHKELON ONLY A MEMORY

The Prophecy

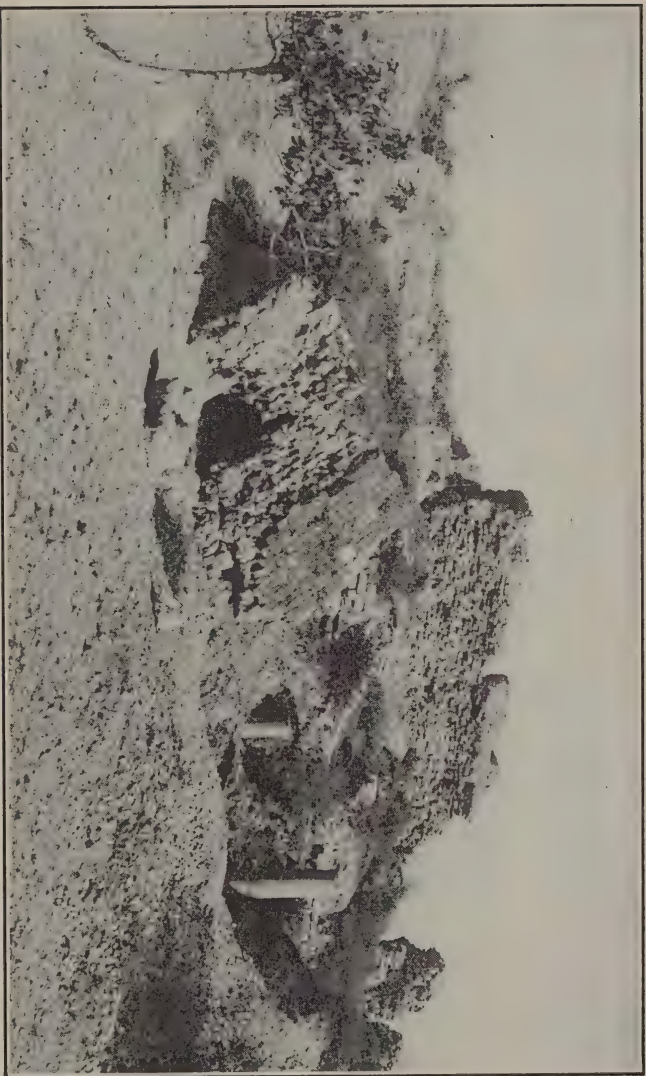
"Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims." Ezekiel 25:16.

"Ashkelon shall not be inhabited." Zechariah 9:5.

"And Ashkelon a desolation." Zephaniah 2:4.

"And the seacoast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks." Zephaniah 2:6.

The Philistines were one of the great nations of antiquity. They were inveterate idolaters, and vengeful foes of the Jews. They were so powerful that the Greeks applied their name to the entire country and called it Palestine—the land of the Philistines.



"AND ASHKELON A DESOLATION."

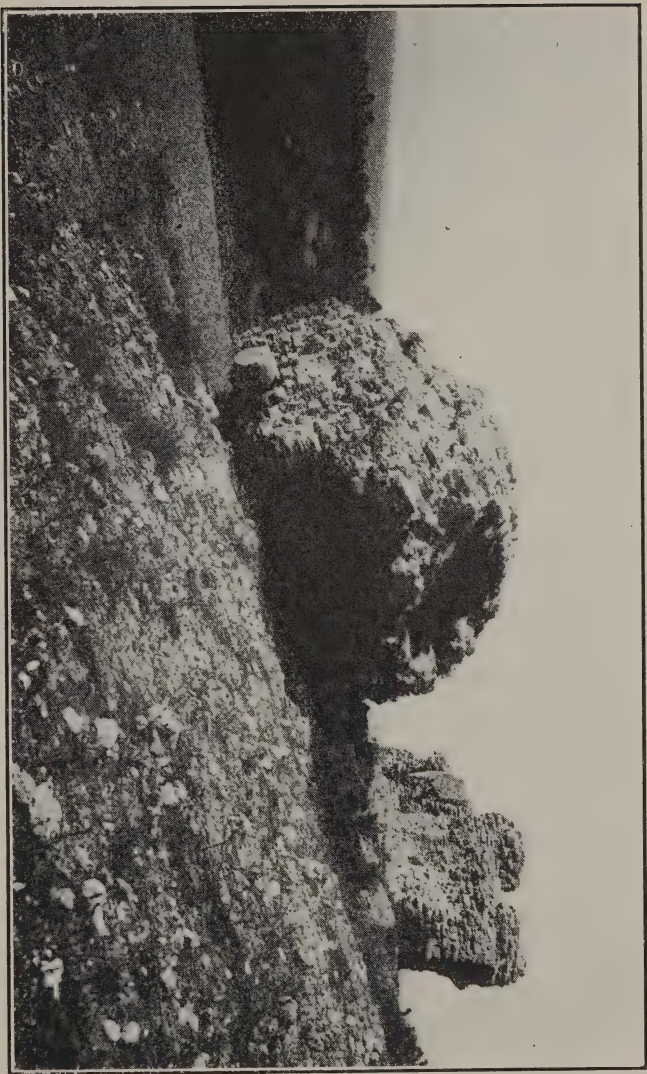
The Philistine city of Ashkelon, which has become a "desolation" exactly as predicted by the Prophet Zephaniah.

Yet Ezekiel declared the Philistines (Cherethims) should be cut off, and the prediction has been fulfilled to the very letter. They have perished from the face of the earth. Their neighbors on the south, the Egyptians, still remain; and their neighbors on the east, the Jews, still exist, though scattered to the four winds of heaven; but the Philistines have utterly vanished!

Ashkelon was one of the chief cities of Philistia. An ancient writer declared that the King of Ashkelon captured the city of Sidon in the twelfth century before Christ. It continued to flourish long after the predictions uttered by Zephaniah and Zechariah. In the days of Roman dominion in Palestine it was beautifully embellished by Herod the Great. But the predicted judgment finally came to pass. The city was reduced to ruins, and its harbor filled up by Sultan Bibars in 1270 A. D. Since that time, for more than 600 years, the once imposing city has lain desolate and deserted.

Many other cities of antiquity have been

“ASHKEELON SHALL NOT BE INHABITED.”
Ruins of the city of Ashkelon which has not been inhabited for more than 600 years.



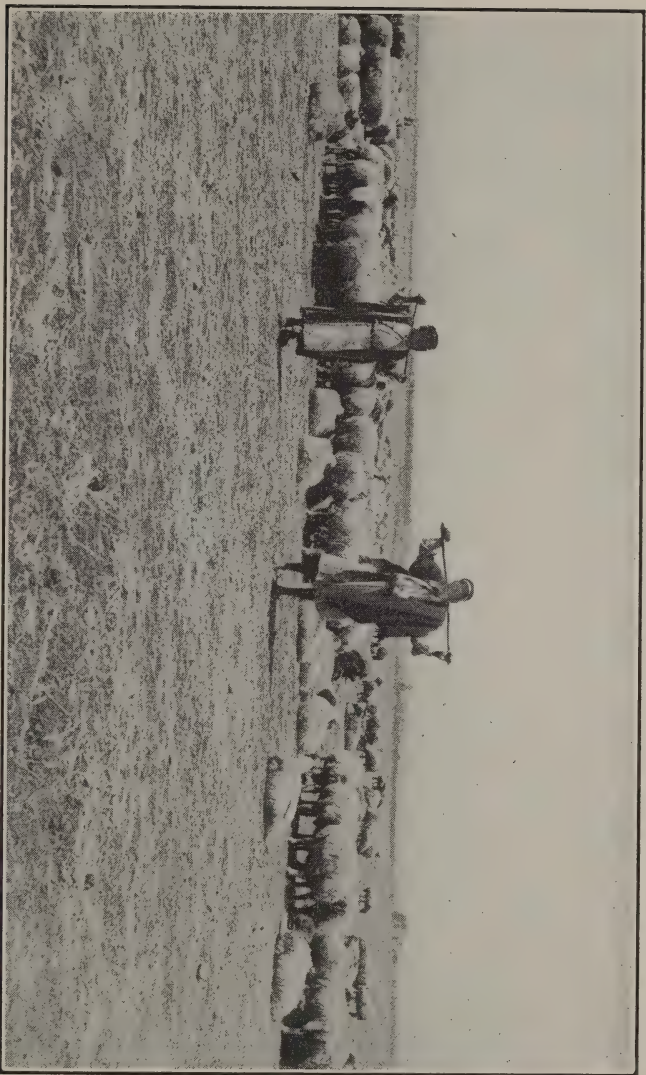
destroyed again and again, but have quickly been rebuilt, and have sprung up into renewed position and power. But Ashkelon has remained "desolate" and "not inhabited" as a testimony to the unerring accuracy of the Word of God.

We had difficulty in reaching Ashkelon by motor car, but finally got through after almost getting stalled in the sand. The ruins still standing today give one some idea of the thickness of the walls and towers of the once flourishing city. The location has been described as "one of the fairest along this part of the Mediterranean coast."

Zephaniah's further prediction that the seacoast shall be for folds for flocks is abundantly fulfilled today. As we motored northward along the coast through the beautiful plain of Sharon I was especially impressed with the numbers of flocks of sheep that we passed. At one point I counted four flocks within a radius of two or three miles. With our own eyes we saw the fulfillment of the prediction of more than 2,500 years before that the coast shall be "folds for flocks."

"AND THE SEACOAST SHALL BE * * FOR FLOCKS."

Some of the many flocks that graze on the beautiful plain of Sharon, along the seacoast of Palestine as foretold by the Prophet Zephaniah.



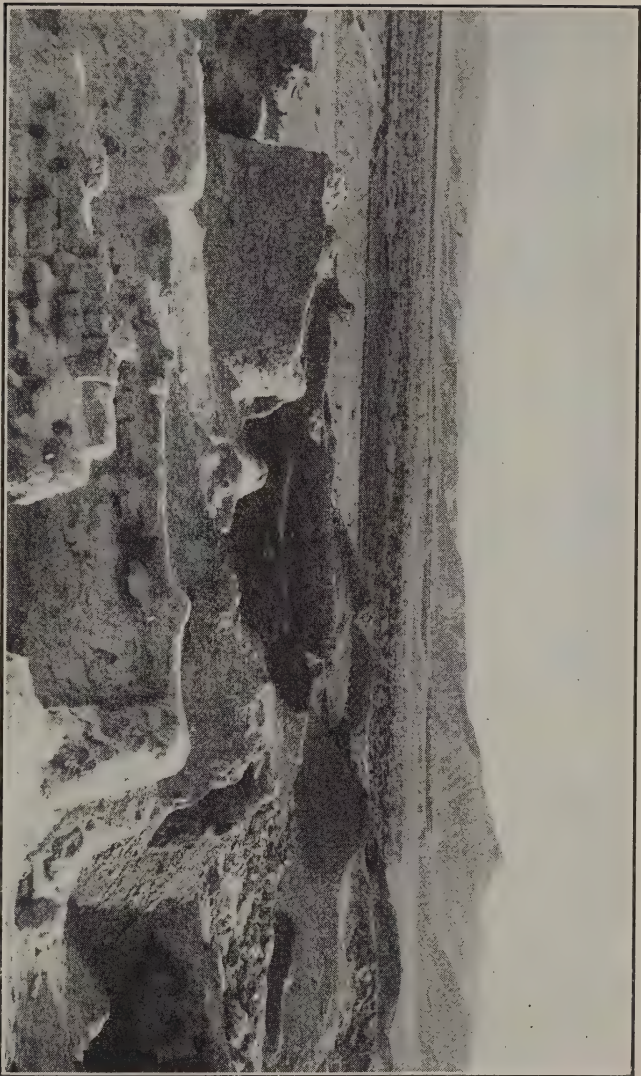
VI. THE CURSE OF JERICHO FULFILLED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

The Prophecy

“Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his first-born, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.” Joshua 6:26.

Jericho was the first city captured by the Children of Israel in their conquest of the land of Canaan.

For six days the people marched around the walled city once a day in silence. On the seventh day they encircled the city seven times, and when the priests blew with the trumpets “the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man



RUINS OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF JERICHO.

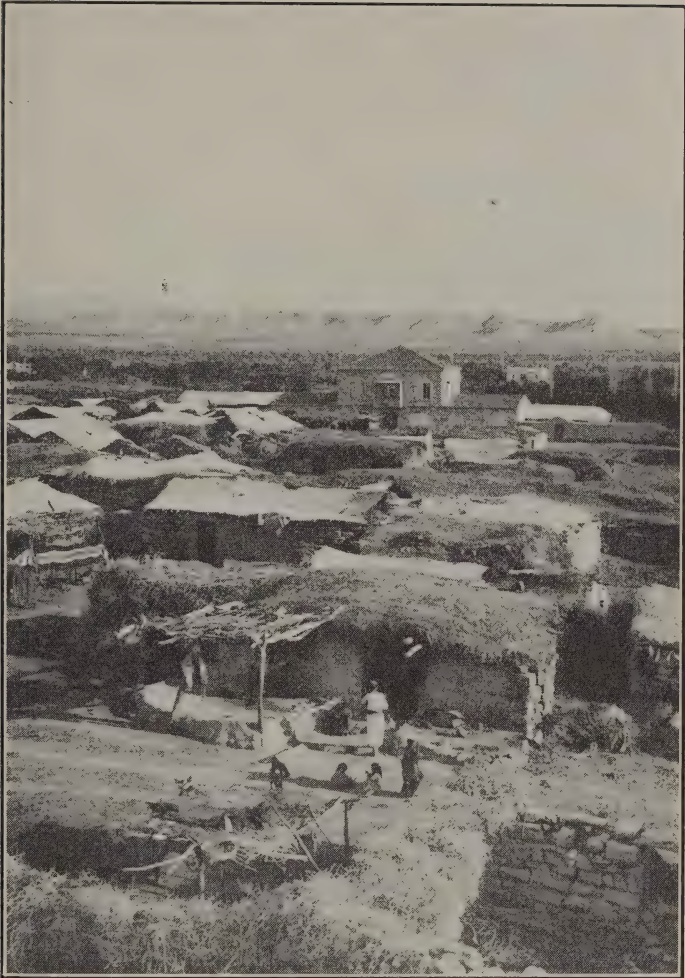
The curse upon the city uttered by Joshua seems to have hung over it during all the succeeding centuries.

straight before him, and they took the city."

After the conquest of Jericho, Joshua pronounced the above curse upon it. The city evidently lay in ruins for some 500 years. In the reign of King Ahab it was rebuilt by Hiel and Bethelite. Hiel "laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his first-born, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub," precisely as predicted by Joshua half a millennium previous.

Shortly before the birth of Christ, Mark Anthony gave the district to Cleopatra. She sold it to Herod the Great. He built a magnificent city about two or three miles from the ancient site. A stone aqueduct brought water to the city from springs northeast of Jerusalem. Part of the aqueduct is still standing. Later Herod's magnificent city was destroyed, and today only a bare plain, with an occasional banana plantation, marks the spot where the beautifully adorned city once stood.

The present village of Jericho adjoins the vanished city of Herod. The native population consists of only about 400 black



BEDOUIN HUTS IN THE MODERN VILLAGE OF
JERICHO.

The native population consists of about 400 black Bedouins.

Bedouins, who live in miserable mud huts. The curse pronounced by Joshua 3,400 years ago seems to have hung over the city throughout all the long centuries that have intervened since it was uttered. This is all the more significant in view of the delightful climate of the district in the winter, and of its luxuriant vegetation, and varied fruits, from grapes and oranges to bananas and dates.



BEAUTIFUL PALM TREES IN JERICHO.

The climate of Jericho is so balmy and mild that people of Jerusalem are building cottages there for winter residence.

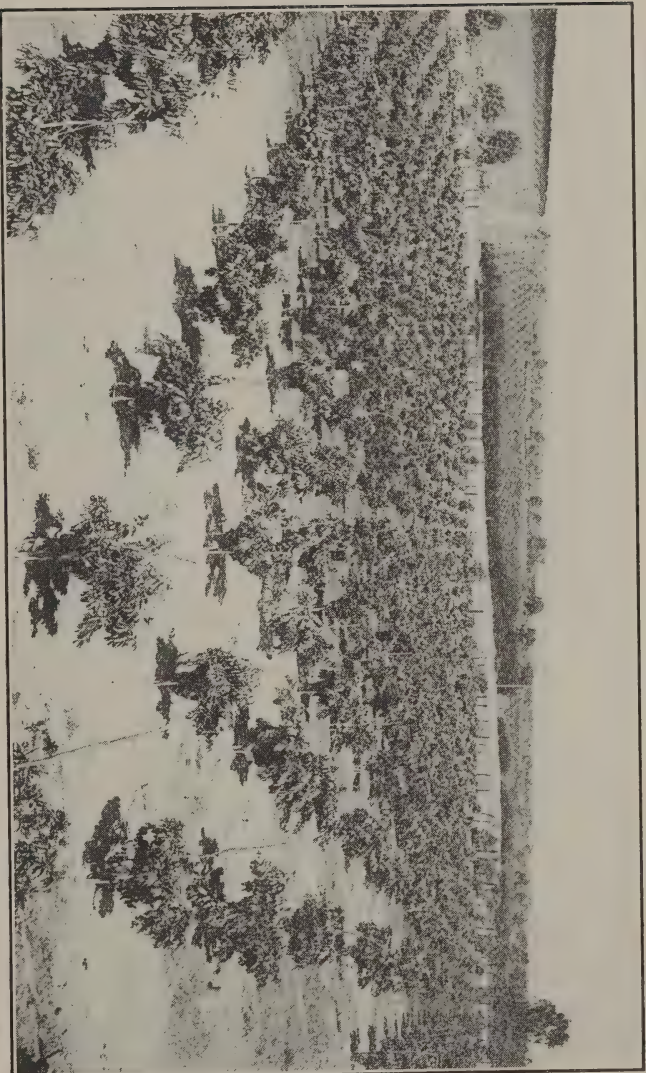
VII. PROSPERITY PREDICTED FOR PALESTINE: THE DESOLATE LAND TO BECOME LIKE THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Prophecy

"The wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden." Ezekiel 36:33,34,35.

For centuries the land of Palestine has lain desolate and waste. Moses and other prophets had forewarned the chosen people that if they disobeyed God's commands their land would become desolate and their cities waste, and they themselves would be scattered to the ends of the earth.

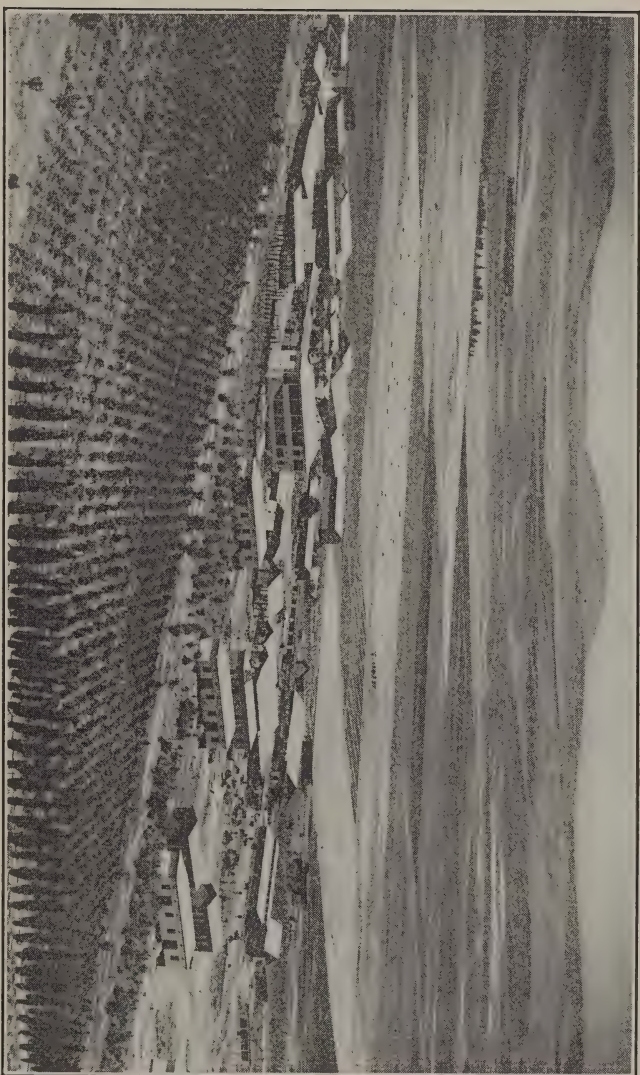
Their crowning act of disobedience lay



"THIS LAND THAT WAS DESOLATE IS BECOME LIKE THE GARDEN OF EDEN."
An orange grove near Jaffa that is a bit of a "Garden of Eden," as foretold by the Prophet Ezekiel.

in their rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Swift judgment followed in the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, the slaughter of the Jews, and their dispersion among all nations. Gradually the land that once blossomed like the rose became barren and waste, and so it has remained throughout the centuries.

The desolation was not confined to any one portion of Palestine. It extended from east to west, and from north to south. More than fifty years ago Mark Twain visited Palestine, and pictured the desolation in the district about Lake Huleh or the Waters of Merom. He wrote: "There is not a solitary village throughout its whole extent—nor for thirty miles in either direction. There are two or three small clusters of Bedouin tents, but not a single permanent habitation. One may ride ten miles hereabouts and not see ten human beings. To this region one of the prophecies is applied, 'I will bring the land into desolation; and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter

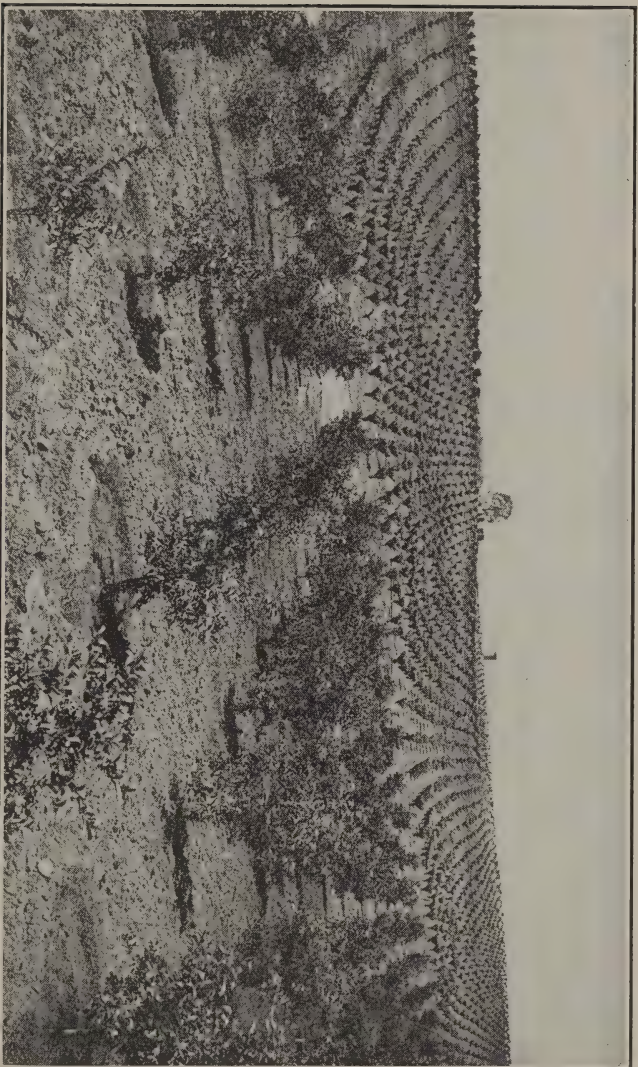


"THE WASTES SHALL BE BUILDED AND THE DESOLATE LAND SHALL BE TILLED."
A view of the plain of Esdraslon which was largely desolate and waste, but is today blossoming like a
rose after being "buiided" and "tilled" by Jewish colonists.

you among the heathen, and I will draw out a sword after you; and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.' No man can stand here by deserted Ain Mellahah and say the prophecy has not been fulfilled."

But Ezekiel prophesies that the wastes shall be builded, and the land that has lain desolate, shall again "become like the Garden of Eden." Like Mark Twain I would say that no man can visit Palestine today and say that this prediction is not being literally and veritably fulfilled before one's very eyes. The British mandate in Palestine and the Zionist movement are jointly responsible for the rapid transformation that is taking place. The Government in Palestine is building splendid roads. As we motored here and there throughout the land we passed at frequent intervals large groups of workmen, improving and building the ancient highways.

But road-making is only a part of the general building program that is in progress. Modern stone buildings are being erected in the villages and towns as well

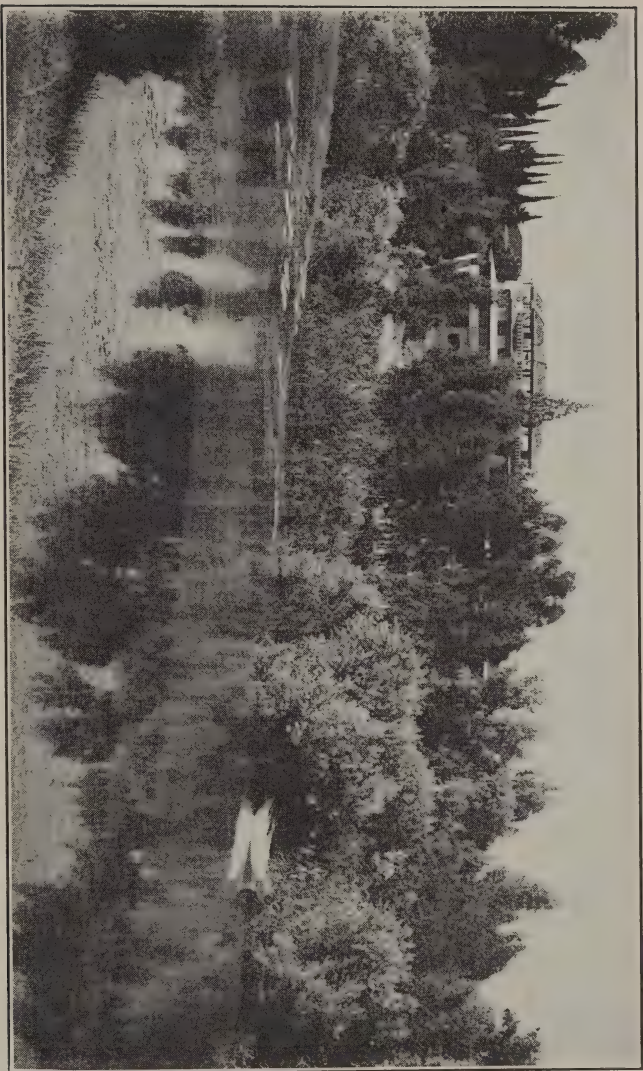


A MODERN "GARDEN OF EDEN" SCENE NEAR JAFFA.
How the land is being highly cultivated by the Jewish colonists.

as in the cities. Haifa and Jerusalem are growing with especial rapidity. The era of building now in progress in Palestine has never been equaled, or even approached, since the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jews.

The Zionist movement is another leading factor which is changing Palestine from a "desolate waste" to a "Garden of Eden." The oldest Jewish colony in Palestine is Petah-Tikvah, a few miles north of Jaffa. It was founded in 1878 by Jews living in Jerusalem. In 1882 Russian Jews started the Rishon-le-Zion colony southeast of Jaffa. This has now become one of the strongest colonies in the country through the rapid growth of the orange industry. The Jaffa oranges are of world-wide fame, and the market for them is increasing by leaps and bounds. The Palestine orange crop of 1929 amounted to 4,000,000 boxes each weighing 70 pounds.

The Jews today own 300,000 acres in Palestine valued at \$50,000,000. It is estimated that each year \$8,750,000 worth of



A BIT OF PARADISE REGAINED IN PALESTINE.
A glimpse of a Jewish colony on the Jordan river.

agricultural products are grown by the various Jewish colonies in Palestine.

An American who has lived for more than 35 years in Jerusalem gave me some interesting information about the attitude of some of the Jewish colonists in Palestine toward the New Testament. He said:

"Several years ago the British Government sent a special commissioner to get information regarding the Jewish colonists. He was rather surprised to find both the Old and New Testaments in many of the homes. He asked why they had the latter Book. They told him they saw that the nations that were guided by the New Testament were the prosperous nations of the world, and they wanted to see what it was that made them so successful."

The plain of Esdrælon, which until a few years ago was largely a desolate and waste swamp and marshland, has been drained and plowed, is studded with Jewish colonies, and is blossoming like the rose, and becoming in truth "like the Garden of Eden."

Thus the prophecy of Ezekiel, uttered more than 2,500 years ago, is being accurately fulfilled in this day and generation. Here is present-day visible demonstration of the divine inspiration of the Word of God that cannot be controverted. The accompanying pictures afford photographic proof of the way in which the land that was once waste and desolate is becoming "like the Garden of Eden."

"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

VIII. FROM RUINS TO RESTORATION FORE- CASTED FOR MOAB AND AMMON

The Prophecy

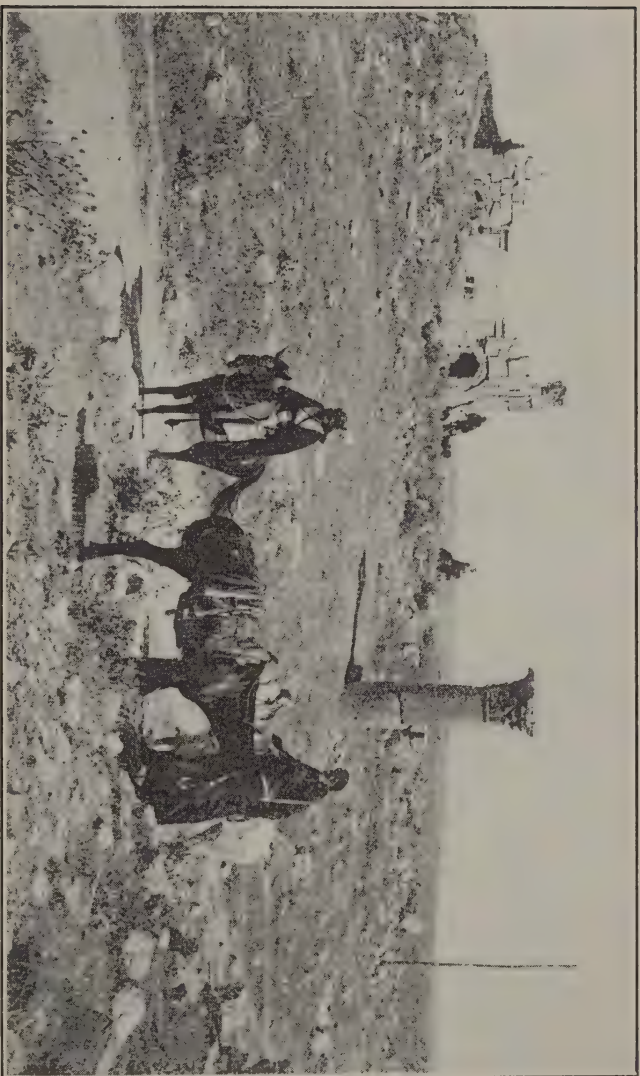
"And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the Lord." Ezekiel 25:11.

"I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap." Jeremiah 49:2.

"And say to the Ammonites. . . . I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk." Ezekiel 25:3,4.

"Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 48:47.

"And afterward I will bring again the



"I WILL EXECUTE JUDGMENTS UPON MOAB."

One of the ruined cities of ancient Moab. The lands of both Moab and Ammon are dotted with ruins of towns and cities that were once prosperous and populous, but are now desolate and forsaken. Truly judgments have been executed upon both countries.

captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 49:6.

The prophets declare that Moab and Ammon would be visited with heavy judgments, like the land of Palestine, and would lie desolate and forsaken for their iniquities. They further state, however, that the captivity of both lands will be turned, and that they will again flourish and prosper in the latter days.

With what unerring accuracy these predictions of more than 2,500 years ago have been fulfilled! For long centuries these lands have lain desolate and forsaken. With the exception of a few towns, they have been inhabited chiefly by roving bands of Bedouins. Both countries abound with ancient ruins, like that of Rabbath Moab, pictured herewith.

A missionary in Palestine who is familiar with conditions in these lands said: “Again and again during the centuries the Arabs, nomadic tribes from the east, have come to attack the country of the Ammonites, and

again and again they have sent out the inhabitants of the land. From central Arabia they came by the thousands into that district some years ago and over-ran the country. Had it not been for the presence of the British Army, which was able after some difficulty to check their onrush, probably few of the local inhabitants would have survived. That event was only a miniature of the raids and wars that have been taking place during the centuries as economic conditions in Central Arabia have forced the Arabs there to seek better living elsewhere."

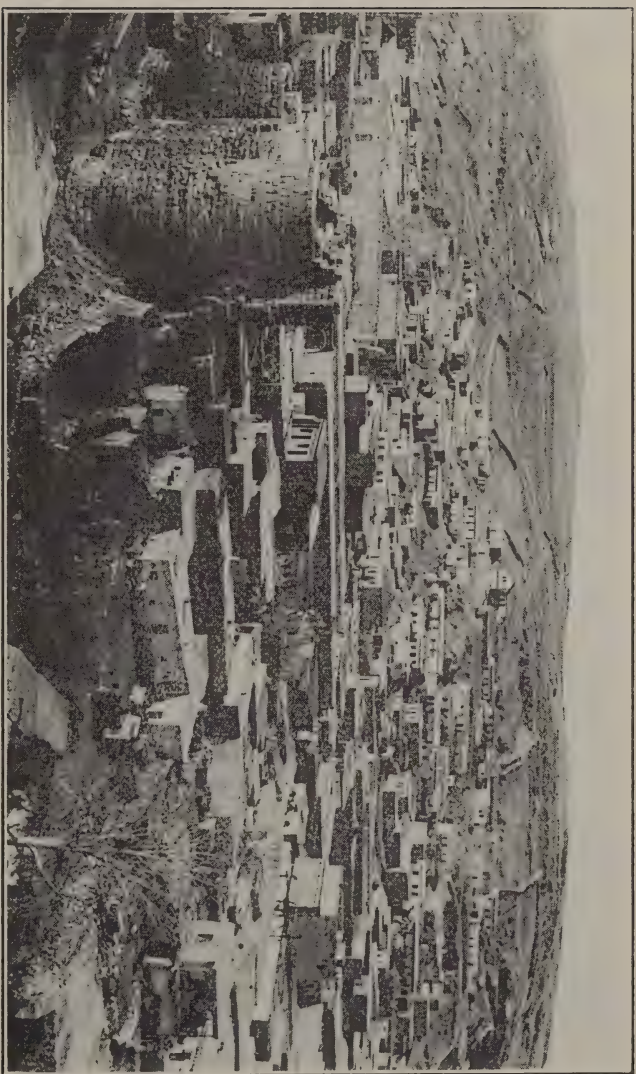
"They shall set their palaces in thee." To-day in Amman, the old Rabbath Ammon, there is a palace built within the last seven years by a prince from Hejaz, Arabia, who has been placed by the British Government as ruler over the area known today as Trans-Jordan.

What a judgment upon these two countries of Moab and Ammon about which we read so much in the Bible, and which at one time were populous and flourishing,

with numerous villages and strong cities! God has indeed executed "judgments" precisely as the prophet Ezekiel predicted.

But the judgments upon Moab and Ammon were not to continue forever. In the 48th chapter of Jeremiah the prophet foretells the future prosperity of Moab: "Yet I will bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the Lord." And in the 49th chapter he declares that similar blessing would come to Ammon: "And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the Lord."

In a remarkable manner both these predictions are being fulfilled to the very letter today! Both lands are making rapid strides forward after their long sleep of centuries. Ammon, the capital of Trans-Jordan, is the old Rabbath of the Ammonites, that was captured by Joab and the Israelites acting under the direction of King David. Only a dozen years ago Amman was a mere village of two or three hundred people. Today it is a flourishing city, with a population of 20,000, and is the resi-



A NEW ERA IN ANCIENT AMMON.

Ammon the capital of Trans-Jordan and the ancient imperial city of the Ammonites. A dozen years ago Ammon was a village of two or three hundred people. Today it is a city of 20,000 and is the residence of the Emir Abdallah, and of the chief British Representative for Trans-Jordan.

dence of the ruler of Trans-Jordan, the Emir Abdallah.

In speaking of the rapid growth of these lands during the past few years, Mr. G. Olaf Matson, in "The American Colony Palestine Guide," says: "There is a Chief British Representative resident at Amman, and the British High Commissioner of Palestine is also the High Commissioner for Trans-Jordan. Otherwise this administration is quite separate from that of Palestine. A new constitution providing for the formation of an elected parliament, was conferred on Trans-Jordan in 1928. The presence of a stable government, under British control, has in itself brought the country vast progress."

Thus we see with what astonishing accuracy these predictions of long ago are being fulfilled in our own day even to the minutest details. Formerly "terrific judgments" came upon both Moab and Ammon just as was foretold, even to the raids of Arabs, the "men of the East." Today the prophecy of restoration and prosperity is

coming to pass, with the same amazing swiftness, and with the same unerring certainty.

One can only bow one's head in wonder and awe at the precision with which these prophecies of the Word of God are unfolding before our eyes in our own day and age.

IX. THE PROMISED HIGHWAY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ASSYRIA

The Prophecy

“In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

“In that day shall Israel be third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

“Whom the Lord of Hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.” Isaiah 19:23-25.

This prediction of more than 2,000 years ago is being fulfilled today with absolute accuracy. For several years an *air* high-



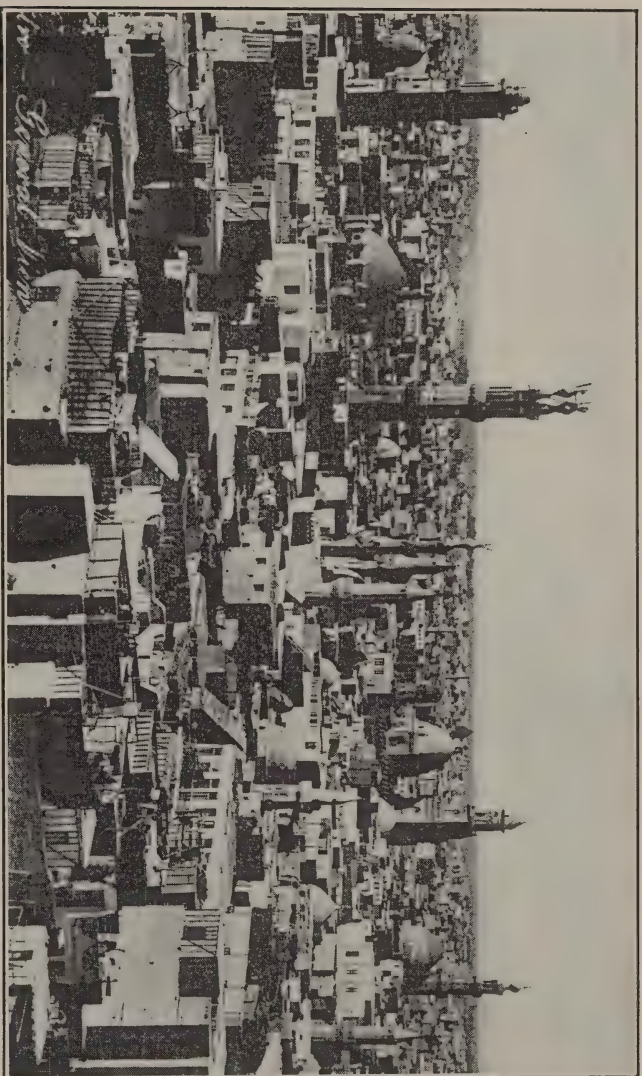
THE AIR HIGHWAY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ASSYRIA.

Lord Plumer, former High Commissioner for Palestine, christening the tri-motor aeroplane "City of Jerusalem," for use in the passenger and mail air service between Egypt and Iraq or Assyria.

way has been in operation between Cairo, Egypt, and Bagdad in Iraq or ancient Assyria. The Imperial Airways, Ltd., operate tri-motor aeroplanes carrying mail and passengers between Egypt and Assyria, via Palestine. The photograph shows Lord Plumer, former High Commissioner for Palestine, christening the new aeroplane, "City of Jerusalem," which was used in the Egypt and Assyria service.

An *iron* highway "out of Egypt to Assyria" is partly completed. A railway now runs from Cairo to Haifa in Palestine, and then eastward over Jordan. Surveys are being made for a railway from Haifa to Bagdad, thus completing the *rail* highway from Egypt to Assyria. It is expected that trains will be running from Haifa to Bagdad in five years. Thus with what perfect precision this prophecy of long ago is being fulfilled in our own day and generation before our very eyes!

The prophet further forecasts a new era of blessing for both Egypt and Assyria, as well as for the land of Palestine: "Israel



CAIRO THE METROPOLIS OF EGYPT.

Cairo has a population of more than a million. It is the political and commercial center of the "new" Egypt. It is the terminus of the "highway out of Egypt to Assyria" that now runs to Haifa, the chief seaport city of Palestine.

shall be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land." We have seen how a new day is dawning in Palestine. In Egypt and Assyria also this prophecy is being literally fulfilled.

For centuries Egypt, like her neighbor, Palestine, has been a land of ruins and of monuments of departed glory. Less than fifty years ago the population of Egypt was only 4,000,000. Today it is 14,500,000 or 15,000,000. Think of the population of a nation being trebled in less than half a century! Where can such a thing be paralleled in another land in our day and generation without the addition of new territory?

Today Egypt is pulsating with new life and vigor. Recently I looked down from the hotel balcony in Alexandria, Egypt, out over the busy scene in the street below. As I saw the hurrying pedestrians, the motor-cars, the buses, the street-cars, the white-robed policeman directing the traffic, I realized vividly the new era that has come to that ancient land.



HAIFA THE SEAPORT METROPOLIS OF PALESTINE.

Haifa is beautifully situated at the foot and on the slope of Mount Carmel. It is the terminus of the Cairo-Haifa railway. Another railway is planned from Haifa to Bagdad, thus forming an iron highway from Egypt to Iraq or ancient Assyria.

For centuries ancient Assyria, (the modern Iraq) like Palestine and Egypt, was largely a land of ruins and barren desert, interspersed with occasional cities. After the late war it came under a British mandate, and a new era of prosperity began. Railways are being extended in Iraq, and the British Government has arranged for the construction of a pipe line to carry oil from Mosul to Haifa. A motor road connecting Bagdad and Haifa, is also planned. Bagdad is a city of 170,000, and has taken on new commercial and political importance since the advent of the British mandate. One of the clauses in the treaty between Great Britain and King Faisul reads: "Not to obstruct missionary enterprise."

Recently on a steamer from Alexandria to Naples I was talking with an Egyptian lawyer, who was formerly a professor in Cairo University. I told him it was prophesied that the people of Egypt and Assyria, as well as the inhabitants of Palestine, would become Christians. He objected

strongly until I added that it would be after the return of Christ to the earth. To my surprise, he exclaimed at once: "Now I agree with you. It is foretold in the Koran that Christ will return, and all the Mohammedans are to follow him." He further explained, however, that they would follow Him as a great prophet, not as the Son of God.

But we know, from the Word of God that when Christ returns the Jews will look on Him Whom they pierced and accept Him as their Messiah; and in that day the Mohammedans will also realize that He is not only a great prophet, but King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and will also yield allegiance to Him. Then will be brought to pass the full completion of the prophecy: "Whom the Lord of Hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance."

X. THE DOOM OF PERPETUAL DESOLATION FOR EDM

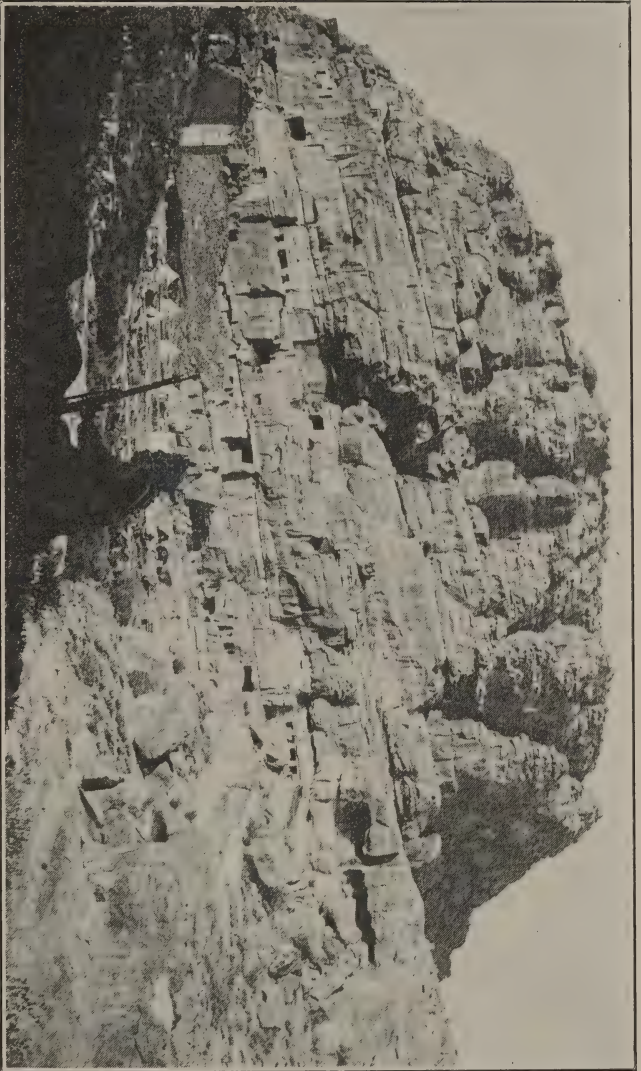
The Prophecy

"I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the Lord." Ezekiel 35:9.

"O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 49:16.

"Edom shall be a desolation: everyone that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof." Jeremiah 49:17.

This prophecy regarding Edom is in striking contrast to the previous predictions about Palestine, Moab and Ammon, and



"THOU THAT DWELLEST IN THE CLEFTS OF THE ROCK."

A view of a part of the rock city of Petra in Edom, once great and populous, now desolate and deserted.
The tents seen in the foreground are for the accommodation of tourists.

Egypt and Assyria. Judgments great and severe—barrenness, ruins, and desolation—were pronounced against the five lands last named, but in each case judgment was tempered with mercy, and restoration and renewed prosperity were promised “in the latter days.” In the preceding pages we have seen how both phases of the prophecies have been strikingly fulfilled—desolation in the days gone by, and new life and activity and progress at the present time.

But in the case of Edom the prophecy is of judgment only, “perpetual desolations,” with no hint of restoration “in the latter days.” And precisely in accordance with the predictions of more than 25 centuries ago, is the condition of the country today. A missionary in Jerusalem, who is well acquainted with the land of Edom, told the writer that where once there were millions of inhabitants there is now scarcely a sign of life. He said that everywhere there are evidences of former greatness, but almost no inhabitants. The uttered doom of desolation has fallen, and Edom remains today

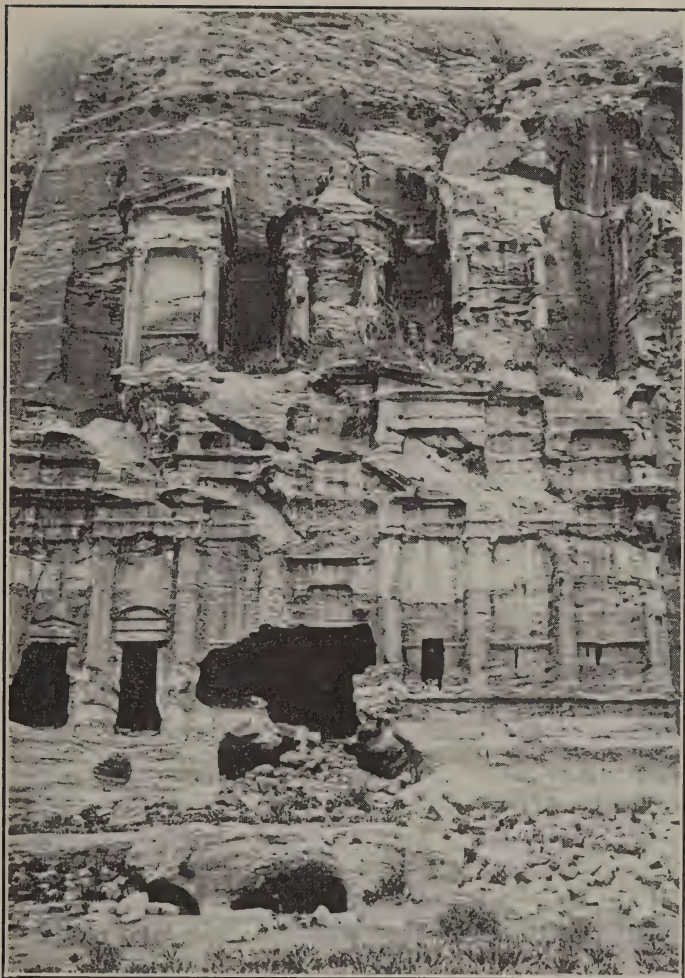
"THY CITIES SHALL NOT RETURN."

More buildings hewn out of the great mountain of rock in the once flourishing but now forsaken city of Petra. The city "was a center for the distribution of articles used in Pagan worship."



a land of ruins. The missionary said he had traveled for 30 to 40 miles through the country without seeing scarcely a bird or a wild animal.

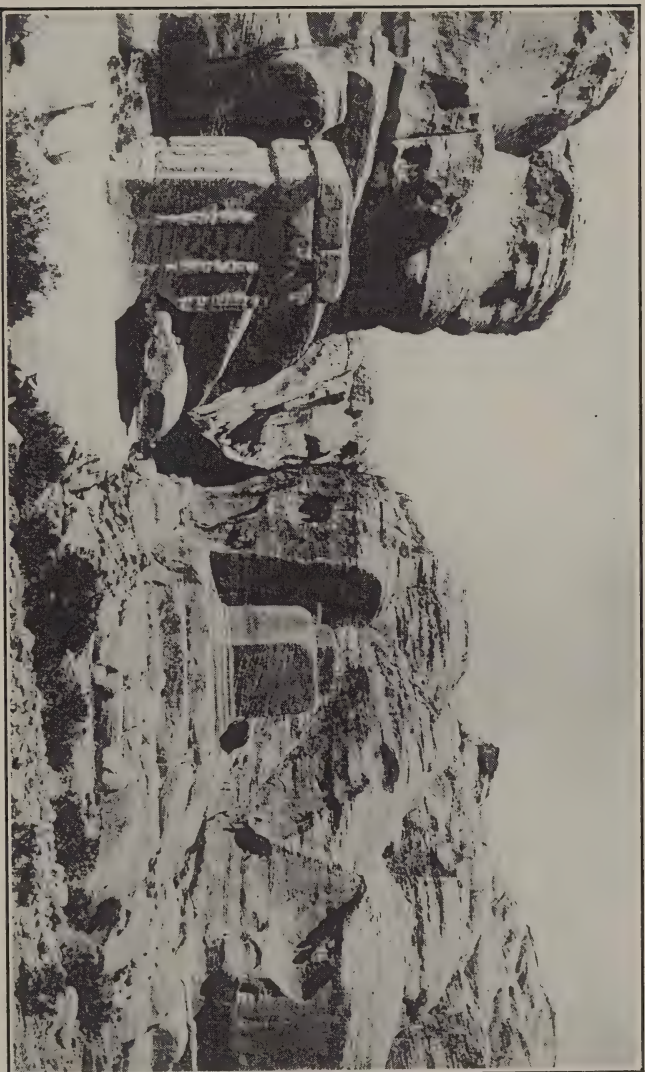
The city of Petra in Edom, hewn out of the solid rock, once great and flourishing, is now desolate and deserted. In Jeremiah 49:16, we read: "O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord." In describing the former greatness of Petra, John Urquhart says: "Petra, the great rock city, the Selah of the Scripture, and the capital of Edom, was a place of immense strength, and one of the wonders of the world. The country was enriched by the gains of a large and lucrative trade. To Petra the caravans from the east and from the south turned as to a common center, and from it the trade branched out again to Egypt, Palestine and Syria. In the time of our Lord Idumea was still prosperous, and these prophecies were unfulfilled.



"I WILL MAKE THEE PERPETUAL DESOLATIONS."
The ruins of a building in the deserted city of Petra. Like almost all of the buildings it was hewn out of the rock.

"No forecast could have been made whose fulfillment seemed less likely. When the words were penned, and for ages afterward, Edom was strong and populous. The number of ruined towns and cities shows that the land was thickly peopled. The prosperity of Petra, and of Edom generally, continued long after Zion's fall. In 636 A. D. it was conquered, along with the rest of Syria, by Mohammedan forces.

"Petra was the terminus, Strabo tells us, of one of the great commercial routes of Asia. It was the market of the Arabians for their spice and frankincense. Such was the Edom, not only of the prophets' day, but of the first ages of the Christian era. There is no more awful testimony to the sureness of God's Word than this land presents. The desolation is appalling. Its commerce has utterly passed away. Volney was the first to call attention to the country, recording the information given him by Arabs, that within three days' journey, upward of thirty ruined towns, absolutely deserted, were to be met with."



"EVERYONE THAT GOETH BY IT SHALL BE ASTONISHED."

This prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter in Petra. Every visitor is "astonished" at this great populous city, hewn out of the solid rock, that now lies in the silence of death.

No human mind could have foretold more than 2,000 years ago that five neighboring lands would awake to new life and vigor, after lying desolate for centuries, while one would continue to sleep, silent and almost deserted, amid its ruins of bygone greatness. Only an omniscient God, Who sees the end from the beginning, could have foreseen and foretold these events with such astonishing precision.

XI. HOW THE GOLDEN GATE WAS SHUT AS PREDICTED

The Prophecy

"Then said the Lord unto me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut." Ezekiel 44:2.

"The Golden Gate is generally accepted as the gate of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem a few days before His crucifixion," declared a gentleman who has resided in Jerusalem for 35 years. "The foundation stones of the gate are those that existed in the time of our Lord, although the present edifice is thought to have been built in the seventh century.

"In 1543 when Sultan Suleiman the

Magnificent began to improve Jerusalem, the wall of the city had been entirely destroyed save a small portion of the southeastern corner, and the Golden Gate. He decided to rebuild the wall. The road that formerly led up to this gate from the Kedron Valley had fallen into disuse. People entered the city where St. Stephen's gate now stands.

"As the Golden Gate was no longer needed its double entrance was walled up and closed, and it has remained so ever since. Those who walled it up had no idea that they were fulfilling prophecy. It was walled up simply because the road leading to it was no longer used for traffic to and from the city. It affords an interesting example of how people fulfill prophecies uttered long ago without being conscious themselves of the significance of their actions."

It is a striking and significant fact that the Golden Gate does not lead into one of the busy streets of Jerusalem, but directly into the area where once stood Solomon's



THE GOLDEN GATE OF JERUSALEM THAT IS "SHUT."

The Golden Gate is generally accepted as the one through which Christ entered Jerusalem in triumph a few days before His crucifixion. It has been "shut" for more than 400 years.

Temple, and later the Temple built by the Jews after their return from captivity, and later still the Temple built by King Herod in the days of our Lord's earthly ministry.

Thus we see that the prophecy of Ezekiel has been fulfilled to the very letter. The Prince—the Lord Jesus Christ—entered by this gate nearly 2,000 years ago; and now for nearly 400 years it has been “shut” precisely as foretold by the prophet more than twenty-five centuries previous.

XII. ANCIENT JERUSALEM PLOWED AS A FIELD

The Prophecy

"Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field." Micah 3:12.

Like many cities of antiquity Jerusalem has been besieged again and again. And more than once the most revered city in the world has been destroyed, and its walls broken down.

In II Kings 25:10 we read that the army of the Chaldees "broke down the walls of Jerusalem round about." Again in A. D. 70 the city was made a desolation by the Roman armies, and most of the walls, save a few towers, were thrown down.

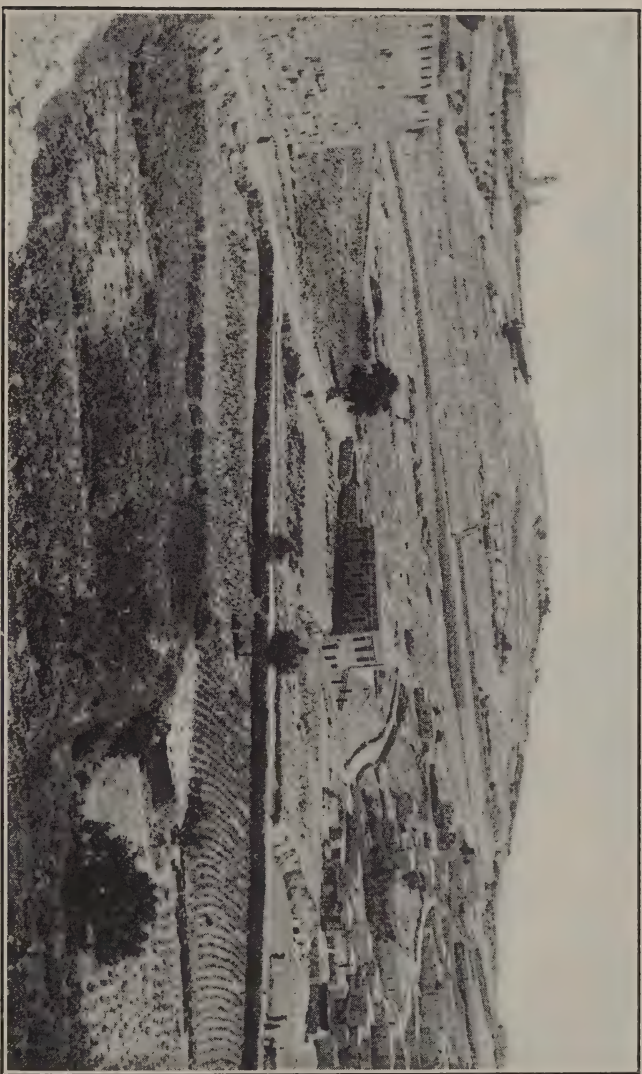
Thereafter for nearly a millennium and a half the city was a bone of contention be-

tween Jews and Moslems and Christians. Again and again it was captured and recaptured, and its buildings demolished. In 1542 the present walls of Jerusalem were built by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

In rebuilding the walls the Sultan's architect left Zion, the city of David, outside the area he enclosed. Thus by a strange but divine providence Zion, the city of King David, that was once a notable part of Jerusalem, was left outside the present city walls. And another strangely significant fact is that it has not all been built up again, but a considerable part remains today as plowed fields—just outside the walls of the modern city.

Dr. William Thomson in "The Land and the Book," says: "Mount Zion is now for the most part a rough field. From the tomb of David I passed on through fields of ripe grain. It is the only part of Jerusalem 'that is now, or ever has been plowed'."

Thus Micah's prediction of more than twenty-five centuries ago has been fulfilled to the letter in our own day and generation.



"ZION SHALL BE PLOWED AS A FIELD."

Zion, the city of David, is now largely outside the Walls of Jerusalem. It is literally plowed, as one

XIII. JERUSALEM BUILT TODAY JUST AS PREDICTED BY THE PROPHET JEREMIAH.

The Prophecy

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the city shall be built to the Lord from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

“And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath.

“And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the Lord; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more forever.” Jeremiah 31:38,39,40.

(The account of the fulfillment of this



OUTLINE MAP OF ANCIENT AND MODERN JERUSALEM.

This outline map of Jerusalem shows how the city has expanded and been built up precisely as predicted by the prophet Jeremiah more than twenty-five centuries ago.

prophecy was written by Mr. G. Olaf Matson, author of "The American Colony Palestine Guide." Mr. Matson has lived in Jerusalem for more than 30 years and has personally witnessed the gradual fulfillment of the prophecy.)

It would be difficult to quote a Bible prophecy that is more definite and graphic than is this forecast by Jeremiah of the oft-destroyed city of Jerusalem.

Being of a character which makes it so easy to measure up as to fulfillment, and to check up in its every detail, as with a plumb line, this remarkable civic prophecy must be of the most vital interest and importance to all who are interested in the prophecies, and who are observing their fulfillment.

The prophet uses no vague or general terms—such as might as well apply to one Palestinian city as another—but he marks his course by well-known landmarks—landmarks so well established that they have maintained their existence through the

twenty-five centuries that separate our days from those of the great prophet of the Exile. Some of these landmarks have only now begun to disappear; and that, only as a consequence of the actual fulfillment of the prophecy itself; as, for instance, the using up of the heap of "ashes" for building material in the construction of modern Jerusalem.

This prophecy is remarkably corroborated by the prophet Zechariah, writing a few score years later than Jeremiah. Dealing with Jerusalem, its punishment and subsequent upbuilding, he says:

" . . . and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Haneel unto the King's winepresses." Zechariah 14:10.

It is the last mentioned point that concerns our subject; because, although Jeremiah does not speak of them, these winepresses are actually in the line which the earlier prophet prescribed, and thus one

more land-mark has been supplied for the tracing of our survey.

Let us for a time imagine that we are accompanying Jeremiah on a walk around the site upon which he foresaw that Jerusalem would be built up; and for the sake of those not conversant with the topography of modern Jerusalem and its ancient parallels, we will mention the modern identification of the ancient places. But before we start, it is important to fix it clearly in our minds that the Jerusalem of Jeremiah's time was much further south than modern Jerusalem. It covered the two hills of Ophel and Zion and their slopes as far as the Pool of Siloam while in the opposite direction it did not extend nearly as far as the present northern city walls. The city has during its whole history been growing northward.

Our prophetic guide says: "Behold the days shall come, saith the Lord, that the city shall be built up to the Lord from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner." We are now (most authori-

ties agree with the identification) at the northwest corner of the enclosure of the Mosque of Omar, at the large old buildings until recently used as Turkish military barracks, the modern successor of the old Roman castle of Antonia. Here, in Jeremiah's time, stood the tower of Hananeel.

Our guide now leads us in a westerly direction, roughly in the course of the present Via Dolorosa—into the Tyropoeon valley; then, crossing the main road which bisects the city from north to south, we make our way toward the “gate of the corner,” going a little to the southwest, and passing (or crossing) the grounds now occupied by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and then on to a point near the present Jaffa Gate in the western city wall.

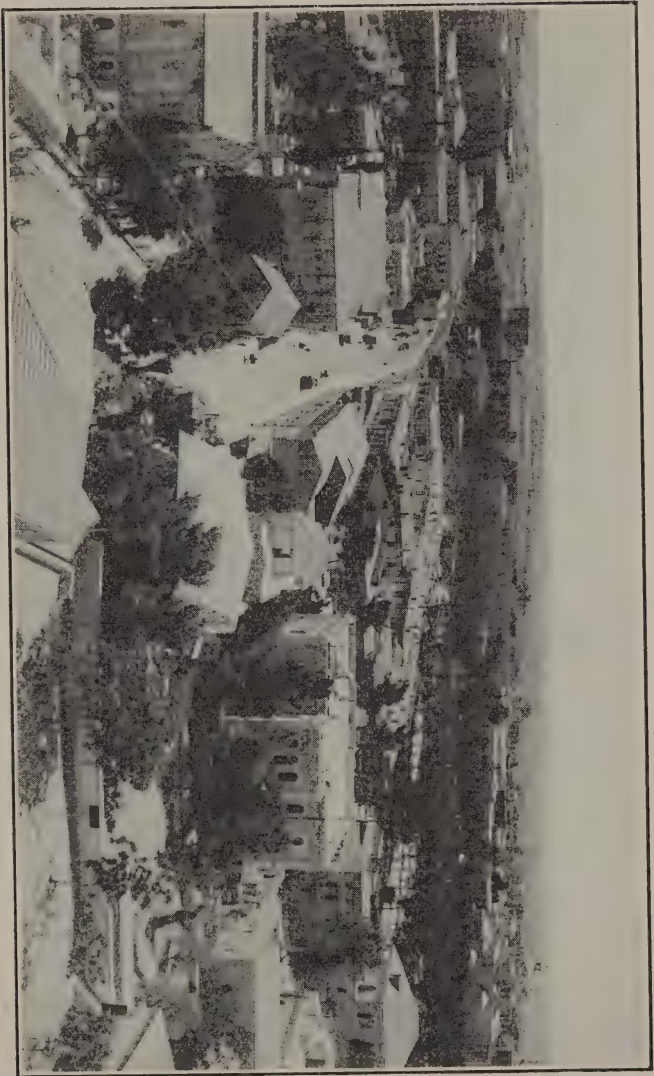
The prophet continues: “And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb.” Hitherto we have traversed a region inside the walled city which, as such, has been built up before the days of the present generation, but, as above pointed out, long centuries after Jeremiah's

time. The fulfillment of this part of the prophecy—although just as definite as the other parts of it and as unquestioned—has not afforded observers of our generation the same engaging interest as has the part outside the walls, the working out of which could be watched step by step in the process of fulfillment.

Thus the words “measuring line” are most appropriately used in connection with the extra-mural sections since the building up of it involved the survey and measurement of the land. Its sale to the present-day purchasers of the property, and its builders—which to a considerable extent have been Jews—is in itself a significant fact.

The hill “Gareb” has been aptly identified with that rising ground on a part of which stands the Russian Compound, situated to the northwest of the old city (the word Gareb meaning “west” in Hebrew).

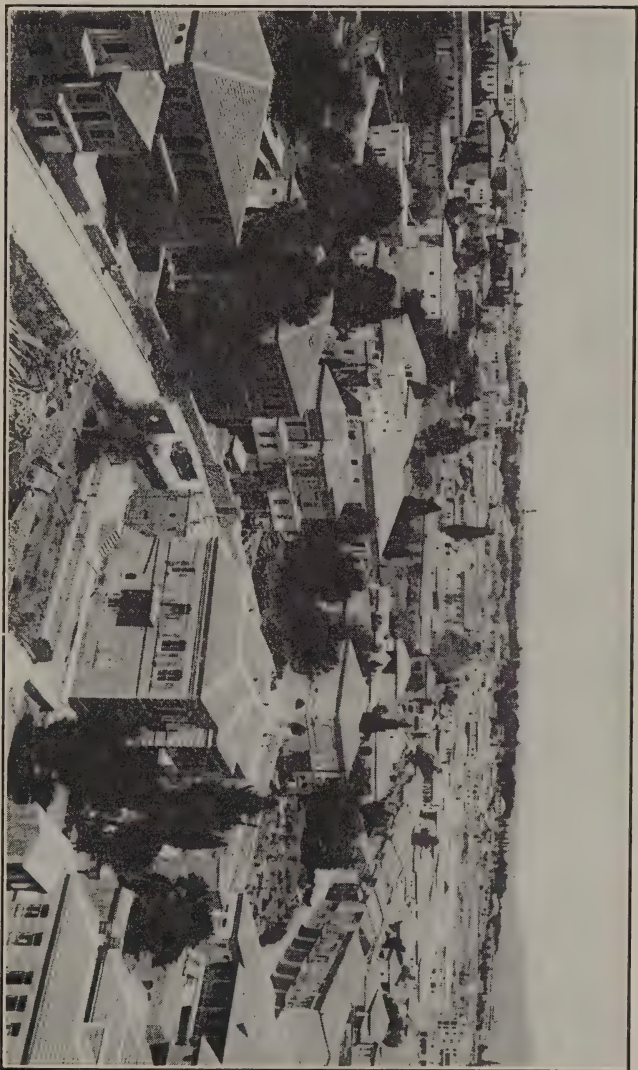
The modern growth has followed along this general line, from the corner gate to Gareb, when about fifty years ago it com-



JERUSALEM BUILT TODAY JUST AS JEREMIAH PREDICTED.
A view of the city looking southward along the Hill Gareb. At the upper left hand corner of the picture the building line starts out from the Jaffa Gate.

menced to overflow the city's old limits within the walls. It actually went "forth against it upon the hill Gareb." Then, . . . "and shall compass about to Goath." Thus we follow, still in a northwesterly direction, in a curved line bearing to the right, or north, until we come to the prominent eminence on which is located the German industrial school known as Schneller's Orphanage, pointed out as the hill "Goath." Until recently this has been the northwestern limit of the suburbs of Jerusalem.

Most remarkably (in the light of prophecy) have the buildings of Jerusalem slowly but surely appeared along this line and most naturally also, from the fact that the main thoroughfare outside the walls—the Jaffa Road—also follows it, as the reader will see by glancing at the accompanying map of Jerusalem. Along both sides of this road have the new Jewish suburbs sprung up, and during the last few decades have gone out along this road as far westward as a point south of the hill "Goath," which for a long time, was about the limit in this



HOW JERUSALEM IS BEING BUILT ACCORDING TO PROPHECY.

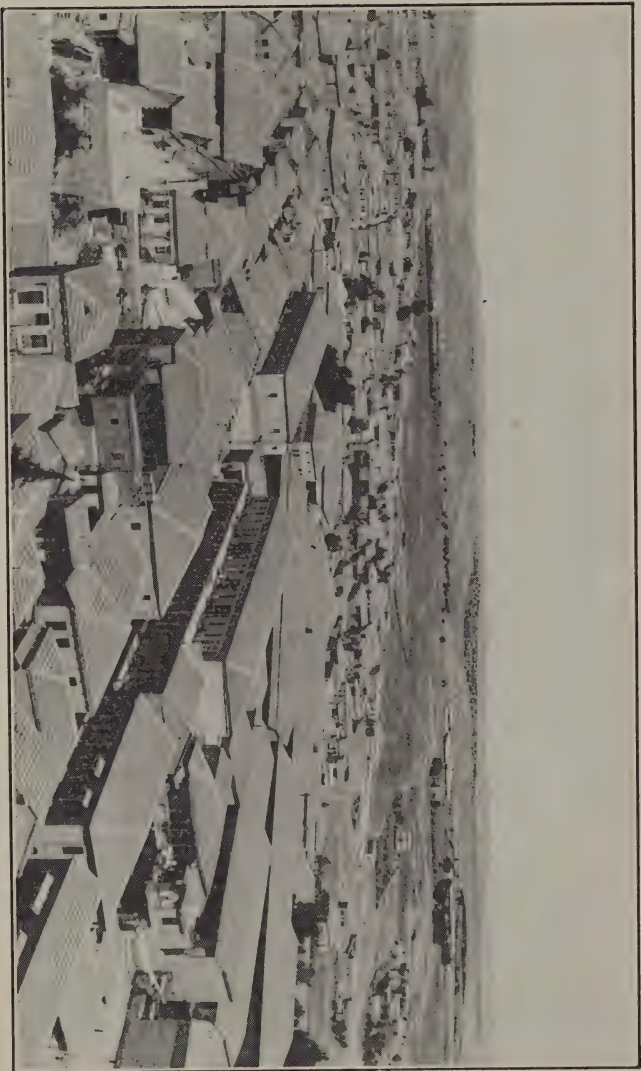
A view of the city looking westward along the Hill Goath.

direction; but, true to prophecy, the building line there went northward toward Goath.

Within the lines so far described, settlement has been definite and steady.

To proceed: "And the whole valley of the dead bodies,"—we are now walking northeastward,—the valley of dead bodies lying to the northwest of the modern city, running by the government tree nursery on the south. This valley abounds with ancient rock-cut tombs, whence its name.

It is here that the second prophecy, that of Zechariah, fits into the former one: "And from the tower of Hananeel unto the King's winepresses." These winepresses have been identified with an elaborately constructed winepress cut out of the rock and furnished with a large cistern for the storing of the wine-skins and believed to have been made by King Hezekiah. If we continue our walk northward and cross over the "valley of dead bodies," we arrive at this press in a few minutes. Very near this has sprung up, during the last five years, a



HOW JERUSALEM IS BEING BUILT ACCORDING TO PROPHECY.

A view looking northward showing the building line swinging round from "Goath" to the place of the "Ashes." In the distance near the clump of trees at the left is the "Valley of Dead Bodies."

new and growing settlement of Yemenite Jews.

Resuming Jeremiah's lead, we proceed, circling a little northward; going toward the site of the "ash heaps," to the south-east of the hill Goath. These ashes used to be a familiar land-mark in modern Jerusalem until their disappearance about fifteen years ago. They were situated near the cross-road west of the Palestine Museum of Antiquities. About fifty years ago the "ashes" was a large gray mound of solidified ashes, about five hundred feet across, and about forty feet high in parts. The "Hill of Ashes" may be seen clearly marked on the Ordinance Survey map of Jerusalem. These, it is claimed, were the accumulated dumpings of the ashes and other rubbish from the Hebrew temple sacrifices. On being analyzed to ascertain its composition, the soil forming this mound was found to contain a large proportion of burnt bone and other animal matter, decomposed wood etc., clearly showing its origin.

The ash-heaps were found to furnish excellent earth for building mortar, and consequently they were carried away—on the backs of asses—to the various building areas, a little at a time—during the past thirty years; with the result that today scarcely a vestige remains. Fortunately their identity was recognized before their disappearance, otherwise Jeremiah's ashes must have remained a misunderstood term forever.

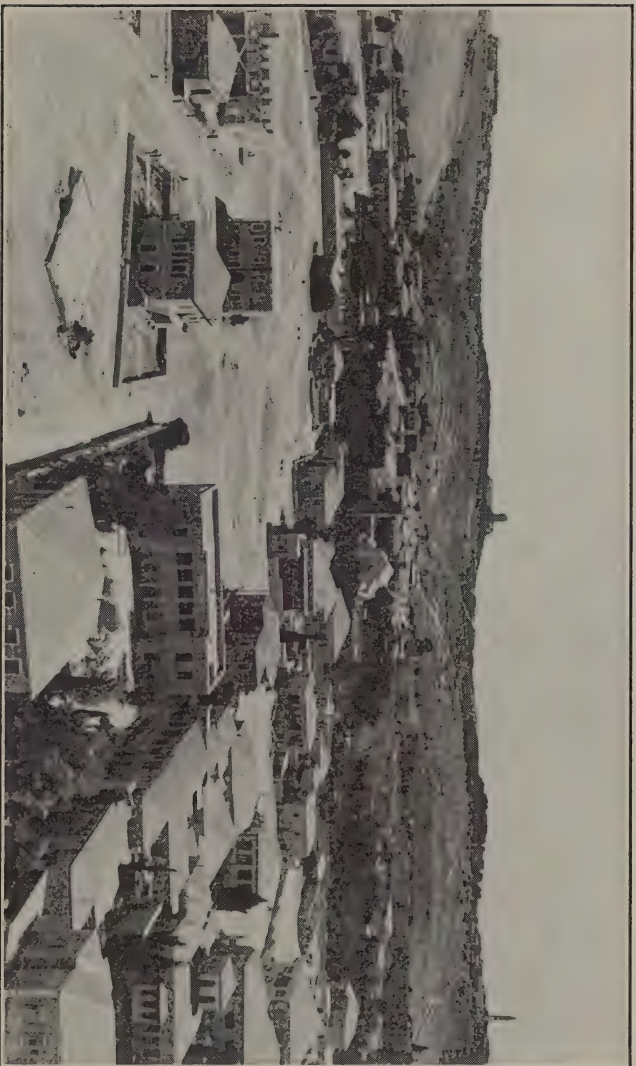
For a long time the buildings reached no farther than the "ashes," but they have now gone beyond. "And all the fields unto the brook of Kidron," this is a rather comprehensive term, as the brook Kedron (Kidron), or the Kedron Valley as it is now called, runs along for a considerable distance to the east and northeast of Jerusalem. If we now walk along the first part of the road to the Mount of Olives, we will see new houses sprinkled over these "fields unto the brook of Kidron."

Our guide is now nearing the end of the afternoon's walk and we are following,

from the "fields," in a more or less southward course "unto the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east." We have now arrived at the present eastern city wall, at the site of the ancient "Horse Gate" which has long since disappeared, but which stood not far from the present Golden Gate, now walled up.

If one again glances at the map and looks at the area enclosed by the route which our guide has followed, one will be struck with amazement to see how solidly most of that area has been built up within recent years—the last fifty years approximately. Moreover, this area, so foretold and so built up, has not simply been filled with residences during the last half century in a promiscuous manner, but the building has gone along the prescribed lines, first along those described in the earlier part of the description and then the subsequent sections!

It is not to be inferred that this one prophecy is the "ne plus ultra" of all prediction as to Jerusalem's growth. There are



HOW JERUSALEM IS BEING BUILT ACCORDING TO PROPHECY.

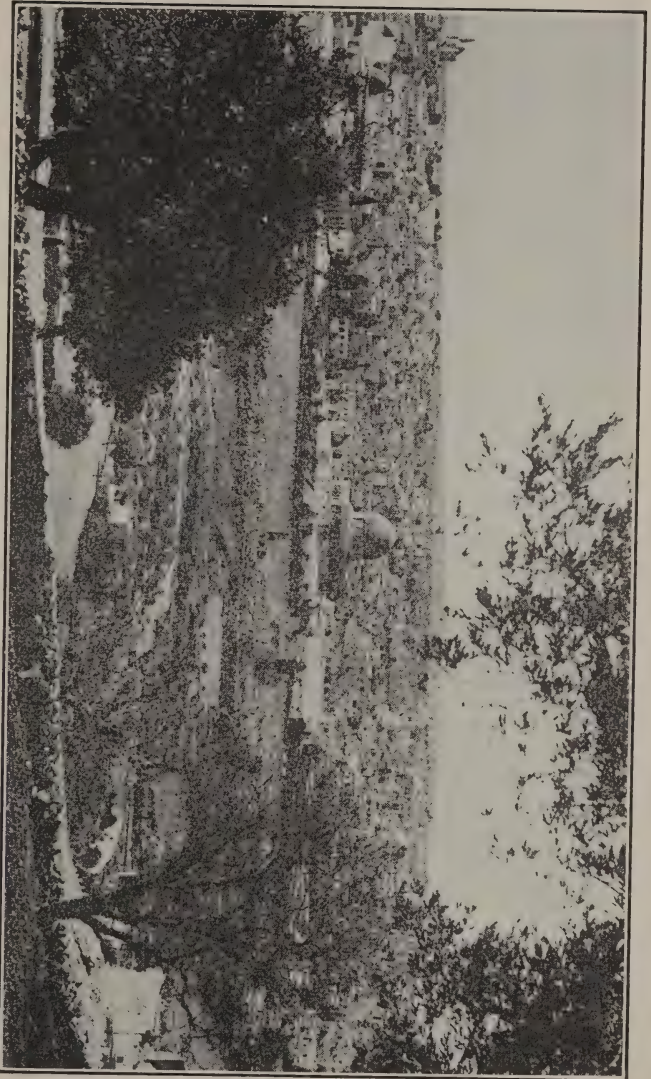
A view looking eastward, showing the buildings on the edge of the Kidron Valley, joining the North East corner near the Horse Gate.

others, distinctly presaging a growth of the city southward, which should follow the earlier northward trend; this also has been remarkably, and rapidly, carried out during the past two decades.

Jeremiah concludes by saying that this new city "shall be holy unto the Lord; it shall not be plucked up nor thrown down any more forever."

How soon this latter part, that is, that it shall be holy unto the Lord, will become fact, or just how it will come about, is a question more easily asked than answered at the present time of political and racial antipathies and strife; but doubtless it will come in the right time, just as the more material part of the prophecy has come; and when it does, it will be in just as natural a manner as the other.

It is, however, most reassuring to be thus told that Jerusalem, the city of numberless sieges and destructions, "shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more forever!"



JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

In the forefront of the picture is the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The dome in the center of the picture is the Mosque of Omar, which is built on the site of Solomon's Temple.

THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

"And so," I thought, "The Anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

XIV. THE LIVING AND ABIDING WORD OF GOD: THE MARVEL OF THE AGES.

The Prophecy

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

"So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Peter 1:23.

When Sir Walter Scott lay dying he asked his son-in-law to read to him out of the Book. Lockhart asked, "What book?" Sir Walter replied, "There is only one Book, the Bible."

The Bible is the marvel of the ages. No

other book ever written has been the subject of such continued attack as the Bible. Men in every age have sought to belittle it, to besmirch it, to contradict it, to prove it false, to destroy it. Infidels, agnostics, atheists, free-thinkers—in a rage reaching to the skies, have all joined in the chorus, crying, “Away with it.” But from all the assaults of the succeeding centuries the Bible has emerged unsullied and unscathed. Its copies are produced in increasing millions, to the confounding of all its enemies.

The Bible may also be termed the anvil of the ages. Most of the attacks of the men of our own day and generation against the Bible are like the taps of children with toy hammers compared with the ringing blows of giants of power and intellect in days gone by.

Canon Dyson Hague, in a striking little book entitled, “The Wonder of the Word,” tells of some of the terrific assaults on the Word of God throughout the centuries. He says:

“It is almost the only Book in the world

that has stood age after age of ferocious and incessant persecution. Century after century men have tried to burn it and to bury it. Crusade after crusade has been organized to extirpate it. Kings of the earth set themselves, and rulers of the church took counsel together to destroy it from off the face of the earth. Diocletian, the Roman Emperor in 303, inaugurated the most terrific onslaught that the world has known upon a book. Almost every Bible was destroyed, myriads of Christians perished, and a column of triumph was erected over an exterminated Bible with the inscription: "Extincto nomine Christianorum" (the name of the Christian has been extinguished). And yet not many years after, the Bible came forth, as Noah from the ark, to re-people the earth, and in the year 325 Constantine enthroned the Bible as the Infallible Judge of Truth in the first General Council.

"Perhaps the most deadly persecution of all has been during the last one hundred and fifty years. The bitterest foes of the

Bible, curiously enough, were men who claimed liberty of thought; and Bolingbroke, and Hume, and Voltaire, seemed so confident of the extermination of the Bible, that the Frenchman declared that a hundred years after his day not a Bible would be found save as an antiquarian curiosity. Then came the German rationalistic host, with the fiercest and deadliest of all the attacks. Baur, Strauss, and the Tübingen School took up the cry of the Children of Edom: 'Down with it, down with it, even to the ground.' But 'He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: Jehovah shall have them in derision.' (Ps. 2:4).

"For here it is today; stronger than ever. It stands, and it will stand. Yes, in spite of these age-long persecutions the Word of the Lord is having free course and is being glorified. It is being circulated at the rate of millions of copies a year, in almost every language of the globe. It has an influence it never possessed before, greater in power, greater in life, greater in freshness and the beauty of spring.

“ ‘Think of it,’ said an eloquent American Bishop, ‘the same Word, brilliant with eternal youth, skin without scar, organ without disease, voice without weakness, step without failure, eye with dimness, the untouched, unharmed, scatheless Word of God.’ Verily as we think of it we may challenge our proud age with the challenge of Moses, and cry: ‘Ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?’”

It is an interesting fact that one of the most unique and powerful books written in defense of the Bible during the past few decades is from the pen of a German professor. It is entitled, “The Bible the Word of God,” by Professor F. Bettex, of Stuttgart, Germany. Professor Bettex scorns the so-called findings of Higher Criticism. He says: “The whole of this criticism has strayed from the right way, and will never

arrive at truth." He says they make "arbitrary assertions made at random, by which they essay, in the presence of the unknown, to surround themselves with the halo of higher scientific knowledge."

Professor Bettex's book is full of pungent sayings, and of lofty expressions as he writes of the glory and beauty of the Book of Books. He says: "Unchanged and unchangeable, this Bible stands for centuries, unconcerned about the praise and the reproach of men. With sublime freedom it strides through the history of mankind, dismisses entire nations with a glance, with a word, in order to tarry a long time with the deeds of a shepherd. It rises like an angel to heights that make peoples, passing hither and thither, appear like swarms of grasshoppers, yea, all nations like a drop in a bucket. Of this Book thousands of the best and most talented among men have testified, not only that they never tired of reading and studying it, but also that it constantly grew grander, richer, more unfathomable."

In speaking of the harmony and grandeur of the Book, Professor Bettex says: "We, whose eyes have been opened, look amazed upon the grand unity and the magnificent harmony of this wonderful Book. It contains all kinds of episodes and digressions; it lingers and follows winding paths; and yet the way is straight, does not turn aside to the right or to the left, and with divine precision leads directly to the goal. And the end finds again the beginning. Eternally the same trees of life grow, under which Adam and Eve walked; trees of life that never wither and dry up; and crystal rivers flow. No longer, however, man, naked and in childlike innocence, tills the garden; but kings and priests in shining robes pass in and out of the pearly gates and the gigantic palaces of the City of God. Thus the Scriptures are a gigantic structure, so simple that the poorest in intellect is gladdened by its sight, and so wonderfully executed that the greatest human mind cannot cease admiring it. And all this is presented so unaffectedly, so naturally, and with such freedom, that

at first one does not notice its immense grandeur. Like a rock it stands, and will stand as long as the earth lasts."

With the voice of a prophet Professor Bettex thunders out the undeniable fact of the truth of the Bible. He says: "The Bible is true; in fact, the only true thing amid the great lie of this world. Falsehood, falsehood! The leaders in literature proclaim the intellectual emancipation of man, and offer, as the substitute of liberty, free love, and suicide! And emancipated women cry, 'More culture!' speak much and proudly of nobility of soul and character, and then run away from husband and children, and write fiction full of adultery and filth of soul. Falsehood! With uncolored truthfulness and cold impartiality the Bible portrays this falsehood and guilt of the world."

Professor Bettex declares the Bible alone meets the requirements of the soul. He says: "The Bible offers ideals and aims grander and loftier than any ever offered in any book written by man. It dreams of

super-terrestrial beauty, of heavenly purity, of incorruptible possessions, of unfading glory, of true knowledge, of great struggle, of heroic deeds, and of victory."

The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible prove beyond peradventure of a doubt its supernatural origin and authority. Events are predicted centuries beforehand, and at the appointed time they come to pass with a hairsbreadth accuracy that is beyond any human power to foreknow. No other book ever written has dared to forecast the future like the Bible. Canon Hague says: "The Old Testament as a whole is a book of prediction, anticipation, and expectation. All through its 39 volumes there are predictions daring beyond human conjecture. Its predictions with regard to Moab, to Edom, to Sidon and Tyre, to Egypt and Assyria and Babylon, are so definite and have been so marvelously fulfilled that they have stopped the mouths of scoffers and changed the hearts of infidels."

But the crowning fulfillment of prophecy in the Bible lies in the multiplied predic-

tions not merely of a future event, but of a future Person. And that Person is predicted in His character and work with a wealth of detail, and an accuracy of description that is unequalled in literature. Canon Hague says: "Centuries before Christ was born His birth and career, His sufferings and glory, were all described in outline and detail in the Old Testament. Christ is the only person ever born into this world whose ancestry, birth-time, forerunner, birth-place, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching, character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, were all written in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born. Who could draw a picture of a man not born yet? Surely God, and God alone. Nobody knew 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or 200 years ago that Napoleon was to be born; or 150 years ago that Queen Victoria was to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a Man portrayed, not

by one, but by twenty or twenty-five artists, none of whom had ever seen the Man they were painting. Beginning with faint touches in the books of Moses, Christ's whole career is described, the pictures becoming more and more precise as the time of fulfillment draws near."

In speaking of the best way to read the Bible, Canon Hague says: "When you come to this Book, come to it with awe. Read it with reverence. Regard it with a most sacred attention. 'Take thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' Never, never compare this Book in the terms of human comparisons with other books. Comparison is dangerous. They are of earth. This is from heaven. And do not think and do not say that this Book only *contains* the words of God. It is *the Word* of God. To say the Bible contains the Word of God, is inadequate and misleading as Saphir declares. With Archbishop Trench, Bishop Wordsworth, and others of the Revised Version Committee we prefer the old translation of

2 Tim. 3:16: *'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God'* to the Revised Version, *'Every Scripture inspired of God is profitable, etc.'* The Revised Version translation of 2 Tim. 3:16 has been repudiated by such scholars as Scrivener and Dean Burgon as a calamitous and hopelessly condemned blunder, and by the great critic Tregelles as false criticism. It must be remembered by the reader that the inspiration of the Bible is a matter of fact, not a manner of theory. The Bible is the supernaturally inspired, infallible, divinely authoritative Word of God. This is not a deduction of reason, but a revelation of the Holy Spirit.

"It is in truth, the Word of God; nay, more, the living Word of the living God; supernatural in origin; eternal in duration; inexpressible in value; infinite in scope; divine in authorship; human in penmanship; regenerative in power; infallible in authority; universal in interest; personal in application; and as St. Paul declares, inspired in totality."

And not only was the Bible inspired long

ago when "Holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"; but the inspiration still lingers in the sacred writings. Today the very words and sentences are tingling with supernatural power to be released for our use by the touch of faith. Canon Hague tells how he touched one of the promises and the glory of the Lord surged through his soul. He says: "The other day I took up this dear old Bible that my Mother gave me, and I noted a verse in Genesis with a date written on the margin. There floated back upon my mind a time, some years ago, when I was in great trouble. I had to leave my dear wife and children, and to travel in quest of health in distant lands; and my heart within me was sad, and one day opening my Bible, at random, as men say, my eye caught these words in Gen. 28:15: 'Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land.'

"Shall I ever forget the flash of comfort that swept over my soul as I read that verse!

All the exegetes and critics in the world could never persuade my soul that that was a far-off echo of a Babylonian legend, or some relic of an Oriental myth. No, no! That was a message to me. It came straight down to me. It swept into my soul as a voice from heaven. It lifted me up, and no man will ever shake me out of the conviction that that message that day was God's Own Word to me."

"Read your Bible, read it every day;
Read your Bible, read it come what may;
Read your Bible, read it every day;
Never mind what the Higher Critics say."

Here is the testimony and challenge of a recent college student. He says: "The principal thing that led me to Christ was the simple reading of a New Testament. The Bible proved its indispensable value; it gave me new hope and changed my whole life, although I did not understand it completely, yet I knew I had found the truth. I discovered that 'the Holy Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation

through faith which is in Christ Jesus.'

"The rationalists haven't given the Bible an honest trial. I did. I determined I would put it to the test. In the acid test of experience it proved its vital worth. So I make the challenge that if anyone will read the Bible, even the New Testament, a few times, with an honest and unprejudiced mind seeking the light, he will be convinced of the truth of the gospel. 'For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.' In a modern college it was thought that the current skeptical tendency of the times would free me of my foolish religious notions, but I rested upon God's Word, and He kept me from being moved."

Dr. James M. Gray, who has been teaching the Bible for half a century, once wrote me regarding a Bible promise that gripped him as a youth. He also wrote a paragraph full of significance regarding the wonderful blessing of the Word of God. He said:

"The first promise that ever gripped the writer as a youth was Proverbs 3:6, 'In all

thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.' It was staggering. It could not possibly mean what it said. He went around it as a kitten does its first saucer of milk. By and by he tasted it, he put it to the test, and body, mind and soul have been nourished by it ever since.

"To know and obey God's Word is the secret of physical health; it is the secret of true knowledge, and of real mental development; it is a means of getting along in the sense of pounds, shilling, and pence; it promotes family happiness, and brings honor to men."

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, when President of the United States, was asked for a message to the youth of the country. In reply he wrote:

"Hold fast to the Bible as a sheet anchor of your liberties, write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives.

"To the influence of this Book are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

“ ‘Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people’.”

Daniel Webster declared the Bible was the secret of the blessing that had rested upon our country, and that if we neglect it our doom may be sudden and complete. He said: “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us, and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”

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